

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 2, 2008

Passage: Luke 16:1-13

Memory Passage: 2 Corinthians 9:7

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 16:1-7.** Read the parable thinking about the behavior of the steward. How would you summarize his work behavior?
- (b) Contrast his behavior with the behavior of believers in Colossians 3:22-25. What are some of the things that the unrighteous steward did wrong in his work? What are some ways that people today do the same things in their work?
- (c) According to Colossians 3, what should be the Christian's motivation for working hard?
- (d) Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5. What is *the one thing* required of a steward? What judgment concerns Paul the most? Why?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 16:1-7 and talk about work. Is it good or a necessary evil? Who created work (see Genesis 2:15)? How does the Christian perspective on work help us to work in any situation? How does such a perspective even affect "chores" around the house? Spend time praying that you would be faithful in whatever work situations you are in this week.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 16:1-8.** How would you evaluate the actions of the master? What would you have done differently?
- (b) Why did the master commend the steward? Was Jesus suggesting that the steward's behavior was *proper*? What was Jesus pointing out about the steward?
- (c) What does it mean to be "shrewd?" Read Matthew 10:16. What does he mean "be wise as serpents?" Why is it important to also be "as harmless as doves?"
- (d) Read Ephesians 5:15-17. What does Paul tell us about our use of time? What does Ecclesiastes 9:10 tell us?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 16:1-8. How are the "children of this world" more shrewd than believers? In what ways should believers be "shrewd?" How is their behavior supposed to be different from non-believers? How are you using your time on earth? Pray that God would help you to wisely use your time this week.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 16:9.** What did Jesus tell us to use our money for? What could he mean by this?
- (b) Why is it called "*unrighteous mammon*?" Are we to *avoid* using it for this reason?
- (c) Read Matthew 6:19-21. How is this passage similar to Luke 16:9? How does a person "lay up treasure in heaven?" How can we get our hearts right in giving?
- (d) Read Ephesians 4:28. What does this verse tell us about one goal for our work? Are we fully pleasing the Lord if we keep all we gain for ourselves?
- (e) Read Luke 14:12-14. What is one way to use our resources to make "eternal friends" (also Isaiah 58:7-11)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 16:9 and Matthew 6:19-21. How can we "lay up treasure for eternity?" Talk about some practical ways you can do this as a family. What is one thing you will do this week that invests in people for eternity? Pray for someone that needs to hear about Jesus.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 16:10-12.** What principle does Jesus remind his hearers of? How does this show that Jesus was not commending the behavior of the steward?
- (b) You hear people say, "If I had more I'd give more." what do these verses tell us?
- (c) Read 2 Corinthians 9:5-11. *Why* does God give seed to the sower? What promise does God give to these who scatter their seed to the needy?
- (d) According to I Corinthians 9:12-15, how does our generosity affect others? What ultimately results from our generosity?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 16:10-12. How does our faithfulness in small things affect our faithfulness in all things? What does it mean to be faithful with our money? How can you use your resources so that it will have eternal affects? Pray that God will show you how you can use what He has given you for eternal impact.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 16:10-13.** Who is really the owner of all we have (Haggai 2:8; Psalm 104:24)? What is the difference between a steward and an owner?
- (b) What happens when we forget this (Luke 16:13)?
- (c) Read Matthew 6:24-34. What did Jesus tell his disciples to keep the priority on the kingdom of God?
- (d) What is the danger of riches (1 Timothy 6:17-19)? How can we avoid this? Does this mean that we should not enjoy what God has given us (also 1 Corinthians 10:31)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 16:10-13. How should we view all our possessions? What does it mean to have *an eternal perspective* on our possessions? What happens if we lose the eternal perspective on our possessions? How does giving help us to keep an eternal perspective and to keep God first in our lives? Pray committing all you have to the Lord.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 16:1-13. How should we be using the time that God has given us? How should we think about our time in ministering to people? What is your perspective on your possessions? Are you an owner or a steward? Pray that God's Word will be clear tomorrow and that some might hear the gospel and be changed for eternity.

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Kingdom Giving

“He that is faithful in what is little will also be faithful in much.”