

the Royal

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9

Week 24 Twist and Turns, Chapter 2

Sunday was such a powerful sermon as we watched the parable in Luke 7:36-50 actually lived out by someone in our own time and culture. There was so much to unpack and examine after listening to such a heartfelt story. This week will be similar to last week, but we also want to try to change it up a bit during the Sermon Discussion section.

1. Review the Parable Observations as listed in the lesson plan.
2. In reviewing Luke 7:36-50 as the sermon text from Sunday have a few people share their story as it relates to the actual parable. This may require asking a few people to share ahead of time. IF you go this route, it may eliminate time to get into the Read, Reflect, Respond, but this will help others in the group to get to know each other a little bit better.
3. Should you have time to get into the Read, Reflect, Respond of the study, focus on the idea of being "theocentric", or God centered, or "anthrocentric", or man centered with our possessions and our worship of God in general.
4. Hopefully this will give a proper perspective of the idea of worshipping our possessions, or enjoying them and using them faithfully to the Lord.

We also would love to hear any testimonies of any members in your group that may have been impacted directly because of Kent's testimony on Sunday. If you do, please email them to michelle.bauman@therocksandiego.org.

Isn't it fun studying Scripture!!!!

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion

Opening

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 23 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 23 Weekly Challenge

- 1. Recite Matt. 20:15-16.**
2. Discuss experiences practicing them Study.

Small Group Sermon Discussion

1. Review the Parable Observations of "Twist and Turns" as a group.

1. A parable uses everyday experiences to draw comparison with kingdom truths.
2. Parables were spoken to three groups.
 - Crowds
 - Scribes and Pharisees
 - Disciples
3. Parables communicate kingdom of God principles and require kingdom of God responses.
4. Parables twist your mind with the intent to turn your heart/actions.
 - Parables demand the reader make a decision and do something different.
 - Parables weren't as difficult to understand as they were to obey.
 - Pharisees understood them but their hard hearts prevented them from obeying.
5. The effect of the parable was determined by the heart of the hearer.
 - The hardhearted were twisted but not turned, thus were offended.
 - The spiritually hungry were twisted and turned, thus grew closer to God.
 - Parables 'call out' the proud and 'call up' the humble.
6. Only acceptance of the kingdom of God and Jesus' authority can unlock the power of the parables.

2. Review the sermon through Luke 7:36-50 as a group.

- ▶ Because there is no lesson plan, feel free to mix it up a bit. Discuss the testimony of Kent as aired on the video, or share other individual stories in the group that tie into the text.

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Luke 12:13-21

Read Luke 12:13-21

This parable was taught to a great multitude as a warning against Pharisees and their hypocrisy (cf. 12:1). The beginning of the chapter starts off explaining that we are to not fear in the things of man, and to only focus and fear the one who is able to cast our souls in hell (cf. 12:5). Once we get to the parable of the rich fool in v. 12:13-21, it appears some random rich young man wants Jesus to solve a minor dispute between him and his brother. Here Jesus cuts to the core of the issue that all of us can learn from and hopefully examine ourselves.

Luke 12:13-21 The Parable of the Rich Fool

- ▶ Jesus announces He is not to be the “judge” of such minor issues in regards to dealings of possessions. The word judge in this context means literally one in the middle dividing between two people. Much like a small claims judge. Jesus was far less concerned with dividing someone’s inheritance as He was with them acting covetousness.
- ▶ “Our abundance is not found in our possessions.” (cf. 12:15)
- ▶ The parable explains that our soul should never be satisfied with what we have stored on this Earth (cf. 12:19).
- ▶ Jesus called these people fools! Our soul is going to be required of us one day. And if we lay up a treasure for ourselves, these treasures are not rich toward God.

- ▶ Read Luke 12:1-21 as a group (read the 12 verses before to get a good understanding of the focus text)

Reflect Luke 12:13-21

1. In verse 20, God calls them a fool. The word fool means literally to be mindless or stupid. Why would God use such harsh language in explaining their dispute?

2. Do you think these two brothers disputing the inheritance were really concerned with what Jesus would decide? In other words, were their hearts really receptive to His answer? Try to put yourself in their place.

Respond Luke 12:13-21

1. In regards to your possessions, money, careers, educations, etc., do you have a theocentric perspective, or an anthrocentric perspective? Spend time going around expounding on these definitions individually.
 - ▶ Theocentric = *Theos*, or God and *centric* or centered.
 - ▶ Anthrocentric = *Anthro*, or man and *centric* or centered.

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (October 25 – October 31)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “And He said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” **Luke 12:15 (ESV)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through www.blueletterbible.com and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a “spiritual discipline” that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Study.**

The discipline of study has been repeated week after week because in order to understand anything in its entirety, the discipline of pursuing it has to become an essential habit. Scripture is no different, and studying the various parables is even more crucial to study. Author’s intent of writing a historic document is always hard to grasp, but is possible to get to a clear understanding of.

So for the “Twist and Turns” and even to the end of the Royal series, we are going to really focus on study. We really want to challenge you to grow in the study and knowledge of the Word, so we can grow closer to Him.