

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Treasure Manager?

Questions written by Mark Collins

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Small Group Announcement – ATTENTION—THERE HAS BEEN A DATE CHANGE!!!! On February 17th the Rock Small Group ministry will be hosting a new kind of Small Group sign-up. We are asking every Rock Small Group to be represented that day to promote your group in a “Ministry Fair” type atmosphere. We ask that your small group be a part of helping the Rock Body find greater Biblical Community. To sign up all you have to do is go to www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/3646/. For more information call Mark @ 619-764-5146 or contact him at mark.collins@therocksandiego.org for more details.

Global Announcement - If someone in your group needs financial guidance encourage them to sign up now for Rock U's Adopting God's Principles for Handling Money class. Class starts February 1st. This course takes an in-depth look at God's purpose, plan, and principles for handling money and possessions. You'll learn both the scriptural foundations and practical steps toward becoming financially free. You'll learn how to live a life of contentment, including ideas on applying these principles to the marriage and family. (For married couples or those considering marriage – this course is a must!) Join us as we get financially fit in 2008! Register at www.therockuniversity.org or at the **Rock U tent on Sundays**. For more info, contact Danielle Demko at danielle.demko@therocksandiego.org or call 619.764.5123. **For all other Rock events**, please go <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

As “small groupies,” you are the heart and soul of this ministry--who better than you to lift up the Small Group Ministry in prayer? So, it's up to you, you can spend time in your small group praying for these things (weekly or occasionally), or you can pray during the week on your own time. And if you'd like to be added to our Pastor's Prayer Team, just let us know. Mark Collins, the Small Group Pastor, would love your prayers! We send out a monthly email of his personal and ministry prayer requests. Just contact Andy Rodgers at andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org. May God work through your prayers mightily!

Reaching the Lost: Pray that all of our groups participate in our up coming Small Group sign up. Also, in March, the Small group ministry will be training and deploying a new type of small groups called: Seeker Small Groups. More info will be coming, but it will be an adventure!

Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups: Pray that all of our Small Group leaders and group members ask God if He is calling them to a fast, and the courage to be obedient during this unique spiritual time.

Potential Small Group Leaders: Pray that our current leaders continue to give their ministry away and develop future leaders to reach their full potential in Jesus.

Small Group Staff: Pray that God gives us the favor and wisdom to rebuild the Small Group team. Ask Him to order our steps in every decision we make.

The Rock Body: Pray that the Rock Army grows deeper and deeper in the stewardship of their lives in Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:2

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – TREASURE MANAGER?

Last week we heard the stats: Jesus said more about money than any other subject, more than heaven and hell combined. Just think, if we were the editors of the Bible would we be tempted to cut out much of what it says about money and possessions? Come on, anyone can see that the Bible devotes a disproportionate amount of space to the subject, right? It may seem to some of us at least that the Bible seems redundant, maybe even extreme when it talks about money. In fact, according to recent surveys these “truths” of the Bible turn more people away than any other of its claims that it makes on our modern culture. The truth is that these commands interfere with our lives and commit the unpardonable sin—it makes us feel guilty. So much to the point it has forced many people to invent fancy interpretations to get around Jesus’ plain and easy to understand teachings. *WHEN IT COMES TO MONEY AND POSSESSIONS JESUS’ PRINCIPLE IS TIMELESS: THERE IS A POWERFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TRUE SPIRITUAL CONDITION AND OUR ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS CONCERNING MONEY AND POSSESSIONS.*

Hopefully, as you’re reading this you’ve already come to one of the most liberating truths in the entire universe: God owns everything. Psalm 24:1 shoots straight to the point and probably says it best: The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.” Martin Luther put it this way: “I have held many things in my hands and have lost them all. But whatever I have placed back in God’s hands I still possess.” Not only does God own everything He calls His children to be His “money managers” on earth. Therefore, He does not *give* us things to possess, rather He *entrusts* us with things to manage for His benefit. As managers then, we shouldn’t carry any sense of entitlement with His resources. It’s our job to find out what the owner wants done with His stuff, and then do it!

Getting Started

1. A faithful money manager of God’s wealth needs a clear view of eternity. If you imagine heaven as a place where you’ll strum a harp in endless boredom, then the enemy can tempt you to become apathetic about your eternal destiny.
 - a. What do you think heaven is like?
 - b. How is heaven greater than this world?
2. What reasons for excitement about eternity do these passages provide? (You won’t find harp strumming mentioned in any of them!)
 - Isaiah 25:6-9

- John 14:2-3
- 1 Corinthians 6:2-3
- Revelation 21:1-4
- Revelation 22:1-5

Digging Deeper

Read Matthew 25:14-30. In the story Jesus spoke of some servants who are given some assets to manage while the owner was away. Even though we may understand that everything belongs to God is only half the lesson. He also expects us to manage His possessions wisely, even leveraging them for profit.

3. According to the story what does God expect when it comes to managing His possessions?
 - a. How did the money manager's individual view of God affect their performance?
 - b. What kind of profit is God looking for?
4. List at least a couple of dangers of assuming that we own our possessions.
 - a. What are some benefits in recognizing that we are stewards rather than owners?
5. Take a look at Luke 16:10-13 and 1 Corinthians 4:2. Then summarize God's instructions to you, whom He has trusted with the management of His wealth.
 - a. Can you think of some consequences of poor possession management in this world?
 - b. In the next world?
6. Thinking like God's money manager may not be easy at first. But it's guaranteed to bring great fulfillment. Can you share with the group some areas in your life where you have proved to be a faithful money or possession manager for Him?
 - a. What's been the result?

- b. Can you also share a couple of areas where you are still struggling to yield ownership?

Bringing it Home

Take just a moment to picture your wealth—your money, home, clothes, computer, car...everything. Think about it, based on all things, how much has God entrusted you with His stuff? It's staggering when we think of it, but our name is on God's account. What that means is that we have unrestricted free access to it, but this privilege comes with responsibility and can be subject to abuse. As His money managers, God trusts us to set our own salaries. We draw needed funds from His wealth to pay our living expenses. One of our essential spiritual decisions is determining what exactly is a reasonable amount to live on? The truth is the answer to that question will be different from person to person.

7. After going through this study can you list two or three guidelines that can help you determine the "salary" you should pay to yourself from God. Take some time prayerfully asking yourself the following questions:
 - a. *God, am I treating You as the owner and CEO of "my" assets or am I treating you merely as my financial consultant, to whom at best I pay a fee in the form of an offering or a tithe?*
 - b. *I'm frightened by the thought of giving up control of my things, even to You, God. Can you show me the area(s) that you want me to begin to trust you?*
8. End this session with prayer using the AWCIPA model. Group leaders can choose to lead the whole group or have the group break up into prayer partners.
 - A *Admire and thank God. (Psalm 8:9)*
Thank God for everything that comes to mind.
 - W *Wait quietly before God. (Psalm 46:10)*
Sit quietly and listen to God speak to you and write it down.
 - C *Confess your sin. (1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:12)*
Confess your sins to God.
 - I *Intercede for others. (1 Chronicles 4:9)*
Pray for other people.
 - P *Petition for yourself. (Psalm 51:10-12, John 14:12-14)*
Ask for a pure heart.
 - A *Admire and thank God. (Psalm 8:9)*
Thank God for everything you can think of.