

## **The Power of Money.**

Discussion Notes on Matthew 6: 19-24  
For Home Groups week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

Note to the leader: In many ways this is a difficult study because God's word challenges us in ways that makes us uncomfortable. It points out truths that we naturally won't want to see. So be prepared! By the way... there are too many questions for 1 hour so pick the ones that are most appropriate but don't avoid the tough ones! ☺

### **Welcome**

*Q: What is your favourite material thing and why?*

**Word** - Please read Matthew 6:19-24.

### **Money has the power to capture our hearts**

- Q: What things do people treasure/need today and in what ways can money help to purchase these things? (try to limit the discussion to the ways it **can** help and not the ways it fails to help)*
- Q: Can you have too much money? (this question could keep you going a long time!)*
- Q: Read 1 Tim 6:10a. Is there a difference between "a love of money" and "a love for money"? Is it easier to say of ourselves "I love having money" but harder to say "I love money". But is there really a difference!?*

### **Money has the power to blind us**

Please read Matthew 6v22-23.

- Q: What does this mean and why does Jesus put it here?*
- Q: Can anyone talk about a time when something that they had just brought extra worry? What is the secret of 1Tim 6:6, 8?*
- Q: (if you haven't already covered this above) In what ways does money fail to deliver what we treasure/need – both in this world and the next (See 1 Tim 6:7)*
- Q: Why do we so often measure our value by what we have (status, possessions, qualifications etc)*
- Q: Is it true that if we measure our value by what we have then we will end up measuring other people's value by what they have... what negative attitudes in us will this encourage? Why is it easy to deny this characteristic in our lives?*
- Q: Read 1 Tim 6:9. What things can people sacrifice to get more money? Why would they do this?*
- Q: Why is it difficult for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, Matthew 19:23?*

- Q: Would you say you were rich or comfortable or poor? What measure do we use to determine this? Remembering 1 Tim 6:8, Matthew 6:11 and **Proverbs 30:7-9** how does this change how we view ourselves?*
- Q: If we are rich then why don't we naturally ask ourselves: "hey given my riches, how can I be more generous? where can I be more radical in my giving? what can I do to make more of a difference? What does this say about the grip that money has on us?"*
- Q: Why is it true that (generally speaking) the more money we have, the less money we give away as a percentage of our disposable income?*

### **How do we break its power over us**

In Lord of the Rings, the story-line revolves around the one Ring that promises so much: power, fortune, fame – its all there for the taking.

But as the Ring Bearers begin to use the ring, they become used by the Ring. The more they possess it the more they are possessed by it. They end up a shadow of themselves, they end up calling it "their precious", and they serve IT rather than using it to serve them (although of course they would deny this and not recognise it in themselves!). Scary, n'est pas?

Read Matthew 6:24.

- Q: Why does the act of giving things up to serve the "precious things in our life" (like family, career etc) both **reflect** and **reinforce** their central position in our life?*
- Q: What did Jesus give up to make us his precious? Why will we never break the power of materialism in our life until we have truly seen and understood this?*
- Q: What should our practical response be to Jesus' words in this passage?*