

Reflection Questions: Luke 12:32-34

For the message, "Where Your Heart Is" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on July 18, 2021

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 12:32-34

32 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Let's get started...

Remember, Jesus is speaking these words to his original disciples who had already gone "all-in" with him, and they are on their long march to Jerusalem. They had already given up everything to follow him.

Contextually, Jesus was teaching the crowds when someone interrupted him requesting that Jesus step in to settle a dispute with a family member about an inheritance. Jesus used this as an opportunity to talk to his disciples about the dangers of living for this moment when he said, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed for life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

So Jesus is trying to move these disciples from worrying about their lives to dialing into his message about the kingdom. Which brings us to our text for discussion.

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Jesus' call for them to sell everything and give to the needy follows on his revelation that God the Father is delighted to give them the kingdom. Evidently, Jesus thinks this is a big deal. When you hear Jesus talk about this gift of the kingdom, what thoughts or questions come to mind?
- Jesus is calling his disciples to a radical kind of generosity, based already on the generosity of God to them. Keep in mind, they had already left everything to follow Jesus, and now Jesus is stretching them further. In doing so, Jesus tells them they are storing up for themselves treasure in heaven. What do you make of what Jesus is saying here? Do you find it easy to believe and put into practice? How would you like to grow in what Jesus is challenging his disciples to do?

- In verse 34, Jesus seems to be saying that our hearts will follow what we treasure. If we treasure living for ourselves, our hearts will follow. If we treasure living for Christ and his kingdom, our hearts will follow. How does this bring clarity for you as you understand Jesus' concern for the poor?
- Reflect on 2 Corinthians 8:9, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." How does rooting ourselves in God's grace (and not in guilt) help us to become the kind of people he is calling us to become?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What role can we play in stirring one another up for love and good deeds?
- What comes to your mind when you think of a community of faith excelling at the grace of giving (2 Cor. 8:7)? What might that look like?
- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost (to us and to the needy) if we ignore the message?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- What does this mean for us as we live out our faith in the city? How might we align ourselves with what God is doing in this city?
- How would Bryan/College Station look radically different if everybody did what Jesus describes in this passage? Can you imagine if just the Christians in our city took this message to heart? Describe how things would change?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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