

Follow up Questions from message on Sunday, April 2, 2017

Hidden Within Series "Greed"

Reread James 5:13-16

Perhaps one of most sensitive topics is that of our generosity and greed. Greed is sneaky because it can hide itself as a virtue: besides we just "want to be careful, or want to be a good steward." Jesus says there is a kind of greed that is not a money issue, but a heart issue. Reallocating our treasure away from our control and into God's control liberates us.

1. For those of you who remember the movie Scrooge, share with each other the plot and what the primary 'take away' from the story intended to tell.
2. Pastor Jon said in his message that "greed camouflages as a virtue." Where do you see this to be true?
3. How can greed be a negative influence on the people in your life you care about?
4. In Luke 12:15, Jesus say this: "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." How do you know when you fall prey to this kind of greed?
5. Why do we go into debt to buy things, but we don't go into debt to give toward an important cause?
6. Matthew 6:19 begins this way, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal. How do you know when you have stored up too much stuff? Stuff in your home, your assets, your savings?"
7. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. What does this mean in light of this discussion? What do you believe is the thing that is stored in heaven?
8. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Jesus goes "look if you want to know where your hear is right now, follow the money trail." Why is it that God cares so much about where our heart might be?
9. Pastor Jon said, "That the way to strip yourself of greed is to make strategic decisions and systematically begin to send resources outside of your kingdom." Can you think of one way you can do something like this this week?
10. True or False: You have never met an unhappy generous person, an you have never met a happy greedy person, no matter how much they have.