

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups.

March 18th 2007

Focus: SET ALL FREE

Theme: All Things Come From You



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon
Luke 12. 13-21

A prayer of David over the offering "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you and we have given you only what comes from your hand" (1 Chronicles)

We are not the generous ones. When we give to others, whether it be our time, our talents, our money or our possessions, we are merely sharing with others what God has graciously given to us.

There is much teaching in Luke about our attitude to our possessions, eg chapter 6 Jesus taught on the blessings of being poor and being generous:

Chapter 18 The rich ruler who wanted to inherit eternal life but was not willing to pay the price. Human possessions can get in the way of spiritual life: we need to unload our baggage before we can enjoy the benefits of God's kingdom.

Jesus was asked to make a ruling in a legal squabble. The questioner provides a living illustration of the warning that Jesus immediately gives. "Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions" – an important warning for us in an affluent world.

Rich man in parable is sensible enough according to his own lights but did not take into account the life of the world to come.

Rich fool's treasure is in stark contrast to the treasures of Jesus' followers.

One is on earth, the other in heaven.

One can be exhausted as expenses drain what we save. The other frees us from anxiety as God himself guarantees its safety.

One cannot be taken with us. The other can never be left behind, is eternal.

Four practical everyday tips:

1. Don't forget that life is temporary.
- 2 Don't go mad getting and spending
3. Enjoy what you have and be content with life.
4. Be willing to go out on a limb and trust God for everything.

Witness: Questions to discuss



Read the story about Madeleine and see discussion and suggested Bible Study in the booklets on pages 18 and 19

1. If we really thought all the time that everything we have is a gift from God would it make a difference to the way in which we think and act about our possessions?
2. What do you think could be done about the gold and other valuable commodities which people are still taking from other countries?
3. Do you think our possessions get in the way of our spiritual life?
4. Should we guard our possessions? What about insurance, burglar alarms etc ?

Pray together the prayer on page 19