

Sunday Sermon Notes

"Things"

Placebo #2: "Things" Luke 12:16-19

I expect things to bring security
I expect things to make me happy

Confessions about things:

I like things
You like things
God likes things

Clarifying what the Bible really says:

It is not money that is the root of all evil...
It is the love of money that is the root of all evil.
The same can be said of things.

Jesus' warnings about "things" Luke 12:20-34

Things cannot be taken with us. *Vs. 20*
Things keep us from investing in eternity. *Vs. 21*
Things are an enormous source of worry. *Vss. 22-30*
Things distract us from kingdom values. *Vs. 31*
Things prevent us from being generous. *Vss. 32-33*
Things corrupt the purity of our hearts. *Vs. 34*

Getting a grip on the reality of things:

Things are absolutely necessary
Things are wonderfully nice
Things are ruthlessly promoted

So what's a Christian to do?

Be honest with God and myself
Confess my sins and my struggles
Trust God for help and power
Make difficult and sacrificial changes

Digging Deeper

Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion

What thing did you most want for Christmas as a child?

Review the sermon notes from Sunday's sermon. What point in the sermon made the greatest impact on you?

What thing in your life has the greatest potential of getting in the way of obedience to God?

Read: Psalm 37:1-7

Discussion Questions

(Remember that not all questions must be used)

What do you think the man who came to Jesus expected as an answer to his question about how to get eternal life?

Why do you think Jesus responded as he did in verse 17?

The list of commandments Jesus' lists in verse 18 are not complete. Give your thoughts on why Jesus chose to name the ones he did?

What is your reaction to the man's response that he had kept all the commandments? How honest do you think he is being?

Jesus gives a rather radical commandment to the man. He is to sell everything, give to the poor, and follow Jesus. As far as we know, this is the only time Jesus made this

commandment to someone seeking eternal life. What are your thoughts on how reasonable Jesus was being?

If Jesus were to make this requirement of you, how do you think you would respond?

What do you think Jesus means when he says it is harder for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God?

One might conclude that Jesus is suggesting that only poor people can be saved. How does the disciples' question, "Who then can be saved?" affect that conclusion?

Jesus says, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." What this tell us about how anyone is able to be saved?

Peter notes that the disciples have left everything to follow Jesus. In what ways do you think this is true or not true?

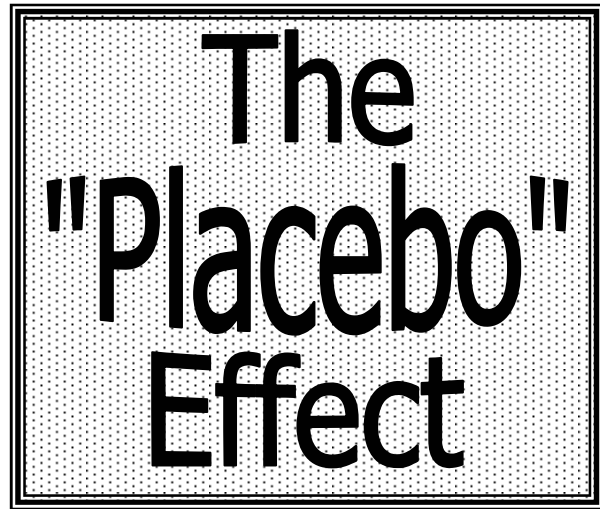
How does Jesus response to Peter's question make you feel? In what ways do you think we receive blessings for following Jesus now? In what ways do we have to wait?

What to you think Jesus means by the statement, "But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first"?

What is the most important truth you have learned from this lesson?

Prayer Time:

Give each person a chance to share what is most worrying him or her and then pray specifically for that concern.



The "Placebo" Effect

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Luke 12:16-34

"Things"

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