

WEEK 4

TO READ IN THE BOOK: CHAPTER 6, THE COSTUME KINGDOM

BIBLE STUDY: LUKE 18:18-30

1. Does Jesus disagree with the ruler who says that he has obeyed all the commandments listed in v. 20?
2. Why do you think Jesus asked this man to sell everything he had?
3. Why do you think this man “became very sad” (v.23)? What was he sad about?
4. Read this same story in Mark 10:17-31. How does Jesus respond to this man when Jesus sees that the man can’t part with his possessions? How do you think Jesus feels about you when he sees those things that you love more than him?

BIG IDEAS SO FAR

Each of us has an innate desire to live for more than ourselves—that is, to live for God’s Kingdom. When our lives are connected to God’s Kingdom, our lives have meaning and purpose.

Every human being is participating in building some kingdom, somewhere. We can’t avoid it; it’s how we are wired.

We were created to pour our lives into the building up of God’s kingdom—this is the “something bigger” that each of us longs to be part of. We miss out on this when we focus on building up smaller kingdoms, kingdoms that are not really worthy of our devotion.

We want to understand why pursuing glory that is disconnected from God leads to *less* and not more. We want to identify the lesser things for which we settle.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHAPTER 6

In this chapter, we want to be made aware of how we can *look* like we are living for God's kingdom but really be living for something else.

We want to examine three characteristics that may expose our lives as a bit of a masquerade:

- lack of excitement and enthusiasm about the gospel.
- disappointment with God.
- taking on the image of our treasures.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER WHILE READING

Is your excitement or enthusiasm about the good news of the gospel greater, less, or the same since you became Christian?

At the heart of idolatry is the attempt to manipulate 'god' in order to obtain security and well-being for oneself.
—Ramachandra

What are one or two ways in which your life would look differently if Jesus Christ was your heart's most cherished treasure?

Do you think it is possible to wear a mask and not really be aware of it? Explain.

In what ways is your relationship with God a means to getting something else that you really want? What do you want in addition to having God himself?

Can you think of a time in the past or present when you felt disappointed with God? What led to this disappointment?

In what ways does our Community Group look like a civilization of God's kingdom?

For what purpose do you come to community group? Would you like to slightly amend this purpose?