

**Community Group Growth Questions**

1. Share with the group any insight, truth, or observation from Sunday's message that helped you, troubled you, or ministered to you.
2. What challenges do "the rich" face? What challenges do "the poor" face? Most people consider themselves in between rich and poor. What similar challenges do you face as you attempt to honor God with your wealth?
3. What criteria do you use to define wealth and poverty? What is God's definition of real wealth or poverty?
4. What does Proverbs 10:15 mean when it describes a rich man's wealth as his "strong city"? Consider also Proverbs 18:11 and Psalm 52:7.
5. Why does the way by which we acquire wealth matter? What about the way by which a person has become poor? In what ways are the rich and poor the same? Should the way by which a person becomes wealthy or poor change the way that we treat them?
6. Why is oppression of the poor an insult to God?
7. Why is wisdom to be prized over wealth?

**Living on Mission**

1. Agur's prayer in Proverbs 30:7-9 is "give me neither poverty nor riches." Can you wholeheartedly pray the same in faith? If not, ask God to show you your heart concerning wealth.
2. How does your view of your own wealth (or lack of wealth) work against your being content? How can gaining God's perspective of true wealth change the way you approach your career, your possessions, your finances, and your generosity?
3. Who are the poor around you? In what ways will you be more proactive in obeying God's word concerning the poor?
4. What is your attitude toward the wealthiest in your family, church and community? Is there any difference in your treatment of them compared to your treatment of the poor? In what ways is God changing your heart concerning wealth and poverty?

**This Week's Reading:**

Monday: Proverbs 30:7-9, Deuteronomy 8:11-18

Tuesday: Proverbs 13:7, 22:2, 29:13

Wednesday: Proverbs 3:9-10, 14:21,31, Psalm 41:1

Thursday: Proverbs 12:24, 13:4, 18:23, 22:7

Friday: Proverbs 8:10-11, 3:13-15, Job 28:18

Saturday: Proverbs 27:1, Luke 12:16-21, James 4:13-15

**Additional Resources:**

*Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope That Matters* by Tim Keller

*Rees Howells: Intercessor* by Norman Grubb

*A 20 Day Study in Stewardship* (Redeemer Presbyterian Church)

<http://download.redeemer.com/pdf/stewardship/StewardshipDevotional.pdf>

**Summer Movie Express** – Beginning in June – Volunteers needed – Use insert in The Loop to sign up today.

**Graduate Recognition Sunday** – 06/03/12 - go to [graduate.martinsburgchurch.org](http://graduate.martinsburgchurch.org) to register.

**Moldova Mission:** July 5-14 - Total trip cost is \$2,400 due by June 3. Email [contact@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:contact@martinsburgchurch.org) or go to [missions.martinsburgchurch.org](http://missions.martinsburgchurch.org) to register.

**Last Day!** - Order your "I 'heart' My Church" T-shirts now! Visit the table in the lobby to place your order.

**Community Groups – Join one Today!**

For more information about group meeting times and locations, please visit [groups.martinsburgchurch.org](http://groups.martinsburgchurch.org).

**Student Community Group:** Meeting at Culbertson's Home – Contact Justin at [justin.j.culbertson@gmail.com](mailto:justin.j.culbertson@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Pastor On Call:** If you or your family have an emergency and need to get hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg's Pastor on call.

**Missionary Toolbox:**

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 2 Cor. 8:9*

"Jesus, the God-Man, had infinite wealth, but if he had held on to it, we would have died in our spiritual poverty. That was the choice – if he stayed rich, we would die poor. If he died poor, we could become rich. Our sins would be forgiven, and we would be admitted into the family of God. Paul was not giving this church a mere ethical precept, exhorting them to stop loving money so much and become more generous. Rather, he recapitulated the gospel.

This is what Paul was saying. Jesus gave up all his treasure in heaven, in order to make you his treasure – for you are a treasured people (1 Peter 2:9-10). When you see him dying to make you his treasure, that will make him yours. Money will cease to be the currency of your significance and security, and you will want to bless others with what you have. To the degree that you grasp the gospel, money will have no dominion over you. Think on his costly grace until it changes you into a generous people.

The solution to stinginess is a reorientation to the generosity of Christ in the gospel, how he poured out his wealth for you. Now you don't have to worry about money – the Cross proves God's care for you and gives you the security. Now you don't have to envy anyone else's money. Jesus's love and salvation confers on you a remarkable status – one that money cannot give you. Money cannot save you from tragedy, or give you control in a chaotic world. Only God can do that. What breaks the power of money over us is not just redoubled effort to follow the example of Christ. Rather, it is deepening your understanding of the salvation of Christ, what you have in him, and then living out the changes that that understanding makes in your heart – the seat of your mind, will, and emotions. Faith in the gospel restructures our motivations, our self-understanding and identity, our view of the world. Behavioral compliance to rules without a complete change of heart will be superficial and fleeting."

Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*