heart: who has first place?

seek first | week one

post falls campus | october 29th & november 1st | sam meredith

What are you doing with the "_____" in your hand?

- Money and possessions are not good or bad in and of themselves - they are neutral - they are simply a tool, in our hand, like a *key* that opens doors, locks, boxes, etc
- The key itself isn't good or bad. What matters is the person holding it. How we acquire, value, and use the key reveals what's going on in our hearts. The issue isn't the key itself, but the heart of the one holding it.

Then **[Jesus] said**, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own." Luke 12:15 NLT

REVIEW

- We finished our Back to the Basic series - seeking to be Jesus' church (Acts 2:42-47)
- Unified around the teachings of Jesus - His viewpoint matters most!
- Staying committed to Him, His Word and His people

PREVIEW - New Series - "Seek First"

Jesus said, "But _____ His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33 NIV

- Today – we're looking at some of Jesus' teachings on money, wealth and possessions
- He reminds us to prioritize the eternal, not the temporary
- How we view and use our resources, shows where our heart really is
- Jesus promises to provide what we need as we put Him first

1. _____ options. Pick one!

Jesus said, "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal." Matthew 6:19-20 NLT

1. Jesus gives two options of where we can store our treasures
2. Earth - temporary - doesn't last, not reliable - DON'T
3. Heaven - permanent - lasts, reliable - DO
    a. Which are you prioritizing?

2. The ___ to the key (the key principle behind what is driving the money and possessions key)

Jesus said, "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. 22 "Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. 23 But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!" Matthew 6:21-23 NLT

- The Key Principle: It's not about money and possessions, it's about our hearts!
- Jesus is helping us see what's really going on in our hearts. (Prov 4:23)
- How we think about wealth, how we acquire it, and what we do with it reveals what matters most to us—and whether God truly holds first place in our lives.

3. You can only open _____ box (you can't open both)

Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money." Matthew 6:24 NLT

- You CAN'T serve two options - it's impossible! You have to choose one.
- Which master will you choose? God or wealth?
    - We know the "right" answer yet we are still tempted - more, more, more
- **Ecclesiastes 5: 10-11** Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! 11The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers! NLT

4. The _____ Promise

- His love for us is un-conditional but this promise is based on a condition…

Jesus said, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33 NIV

- As we put Him first, He promises to provide what we need (food and clothes - 1 Tim 6:8)
- It's not about the key but about what's driving us (1 Timothy 6:9-10)
- We're to keep trusting God, enjoying His provision and utilizing His resources for good

1 Tim 6:17-19 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 18Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 19By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life. NLT

Practical Application

1. What has first place in your heart?
2. Which kingdom are you living for? (temporary or permanent)
3. How are you viewing, valuing, and using your money and possessions?
4. What helps you fight the lure of more, more, more?

GROUP QUESTIONS

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