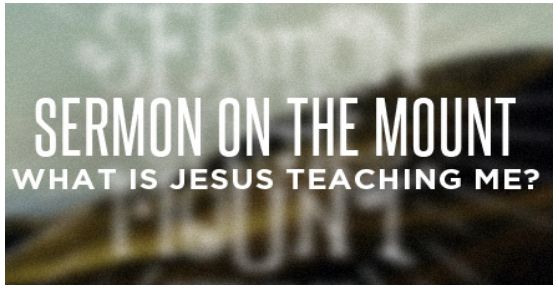
Lessons for Life



Week 6

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website (www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.

GODLY INVESTMENT

Read Matthew 6:19-24

This is the sixth in our series of studies based on the Sermon on the Mount, (Matthew 5-7) entitled *Lessons for Life.* These chapters contain various sayings of Jesus that together form a coherent body of teaching. If we are to be true and authentic followers of Jesus we need to model our lives on what Jesus says here and allow it to shape, inform and define our identity. Jesus speaks quite specifically here about how Christians are to live in the world and cope with life's temptations and pressures. In these verses Jesus gives us a straight choice – do we serve God or money, we cannot serve both. He shows us how we can truly invest wisely.

Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. What is your attitude to wealth and material possessions? Do you find it difficult to discuss money?
2. Money itself is morally neutral. It depends on our attitude to it and how it is used. 1 Timothy 6:10a makes the distinction - *'for it is the love of money that is the root of all kinds of evil.'* It has also been said that 'The lack of money is the root of all evil'. Discuss.
3. What are the reasons why one should not store up treasures on earth (see vs 19 & 20)? And what is the underlying reason why Jesus is against accumulating wealth on earth (see v. 21 and 1 Timothy 6:10b)?
4. 1 Timothy 3:3 says that we are not to be *'lovers of money'* or *'money-hungry* (The Message) but be content with what we have. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-9; Philippians 4:11,12; Hebrews 13:5. Are you content with your situation? What would you like to change? How do you think this change can happen?
5. Read Luke 12:13-21. How can we be rich towards God?
6. Jesus exhorts us to 'store up treasure in heaven' (v.20). What does this mean for you? Jesus places great stress on good deeds – see Matthew 5:16 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19.
7. Vs. 22 & 23 are rather obscure to us. How does wealth and materialism corrupt our motives and determine our objectives?
8. Can an abundance of our possessions and opportunities for leisure, holidays and hobbies etc. sap us spiritually? If so, in what ways? What should we be doing with our wealth (see 2 Corinthians 9:6-15)?
9. What are your aims in life? Are they Godly objectives? In v.21 Jesus says, *'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'* By pursuing your aims are you storing up treasure on earth or heaven? How can you invest more in Godly living?
10. Read Joshua 24:14-21. What gods do people worship today? As Christians, can we be guilty of idolatry?

Joshua called the people to choose and so does Jesus in this passage – v.24 *'No-one can serve two masters'*. Have you made your choice to follow Jesus wholeheartedly or are you sitting on the fence, keeping your options open? In James 1:7, he describes a person who is *'double-minded'* as '*unstable*'. Have you ever struggled in the Christian life because of doubt or fence sitting?