GROUP ICE BREAKER

What is your most treasured possession and why is it?

REVIEW LAST WEEK’S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will engage in fasting with humility and surrender for the purpose of freedom.
- I will fast from something in order to make space to be nourished by God.
- I will fast and reach out with compassion to those who are hungry.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

A treasure is something you seek to keep because of the value you place on it. Jesus says, “Be real careful about what you treasure, because wherever your treasure is, that's where your heart is going to be.” Your treasure shapes you. What do you treasure above everything else? Jesus says, “Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” That is, treasure God above all else.

How do you know what it is that you treasure? Whatever you treasure you sacrifice for. You proclaim what you treasure by your actions, not your words. What is it you sacrifice for? Reflect on that for a moment.

In Romans 12:1, Paul uses the word “offer” in relation to your body. It’s the idea of placing a sacrificial object on the altar. It's not yours anymore. It belongs to God. Present your bodies, yourselves as a sacrifice that's living. This is your spiritual act of worship or service.

There are two different areas where we can make everyday an act of worship, a living sacrifice to God. The first one is Relational Sacrifice. Every relationship you're in can be a sacrifice of worship to God, and the primary form this takes in relationships is serving people. Serving is a way you can say, “I treasure people.”

The second way to be a living sacrifice is through Sacrificial Generosity. The way you handle your money is a living sacrifice. Giving and worship are always connected in Scripture. What is he calling you to give? Be real intentional about it.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define a treasure?

2. Read Matthew 6:19-21. What truths are the images of “moths” and “rust” and “thieves” meant to convey about the nature of what we treasure?

3. Read Romans 12:1. How would you explain “a living sacrifice?”

4. Share an example when your pursuit of a “treasure” kept you from fully pursuing God. What did you learn from the experience?

5. Think of someone in your life who sacrificed for you, who invested their “treasure” into you. What did they do and what did it mean to you?

6. Is generosity a tough subject for you? Why or why not? How does generosity contribute to true meaning and satisfaction in life?

7. What is one practical way you can serve someone or be more generous in the week ahead?
NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will sacrifice to God in my relational life by serving people.
- I will give generously as a sacrifice of worship to God.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 6:19-24
- Psalm 115:4-8
- Romans 12:1
- Philippians 2:17
- Philippians 4:15
- Philippians 4:18
- Psalm 96:8
- 2 Corinthians 9:7

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

- A Deeper Look At the Sermon on the Mount: Living Out the Way of Jesus, John Stott

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week: