



Discussion Questions for Sermon Based Home Fellowships

Week of May 11, 2008

Pastor Brian Long

Series: Solid Stewardship in a Shifting Economy

Title: Surviving a Shifting Economy – Pt 1

Scripture: Luke 12, 16 and Selected

Opening Sharing Many people are in a world of hurt with a collapse of the housing bubble and high gas prices. Describe a time in your life when money and finances were most difficult.

Discussion Questions

Luke 12:22 says, “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.” Describe a recent time when you worried about what you would eat or wear.

Read Philippians 4:4-13.

1. Describe two things believers are to do. (Philippians 4:4-6)
 - a)
 - b)
2. How does Philippians 4:7 describe the result of applying verses 4-6.
3. What was Paul’s attitude toward his circumstances? (Philippians 4:11-13)

Luke 16:13 - “No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” Pastor Brian said man’s way tells us to love money. God’s plan is for us to love God.

1. Describe some of the ways man’s way is communicated?
2. The communication of God’s plan cannot compete with man’s high-tech graphics, frequent commercial messages and appeals for self-gratification. What should we do to counteract the influence of the world system?

Luke 12:31 says, “But seek his kingdom and these things will be given to you as well.” Psalm 37:3-5 tells us how to do that. List the three action verbs and the result of a person’s taking those steps. Now, where are you in the action and what does this suggest about possible next steps for you?

Luke 16:10 - *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."*

Pastor Brian used Deut. 8:17-18 *"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But, remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth..."* to remind us that God is the source of all our abilities. Jeremiah 17: 5-9 expands on that principle.

1. What will result from trusting in ourselves? (Jer. 17:5)

2. What will result from trusting in God? (Jer. 17:7)

3. In the context of trusting ourselves or trusting God, Jer. 17:9 says we are self-deceived, that is, we say we're trusting God when we are really trusting ourselves. Describe a time in your life when this was a struggle for you.

Luke 12:34 - *"Where your treasure is there your heart will be also."* By any world standard, Americans are very wealthy. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 describes how to use wealth.

- A. Describe three points from 1 Timothy 6:17. Then summarize how you can apply the instruction to your life.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

- B. Same as above for verse 18.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

- C. Paul says in 1 Tim. 6:19 that the wealthy are to "lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age." What does that mean?