

AT YOUR Disposal

Treasure: Part 1

March 17 | Sarah Whyte, Pastor, Home Groups

Ah, money. Everyone's favourite group conversation. Today, when we talk about treasure we are moving outside of our own relationship with money itself and looking the bigger picture of how our culture understands money and how we are called to engage, or not, in such systems. This isn't about how *much* we spend, but *how* we spend. As we explore these confusing and tension-inducing systems, we are facing reality and choosing hope, not answers. We are choosing to believe in the power of Christ's community at work - but first we have to know what we're up against.



MESSAGE NOTES

This isn't a conversation about how *much* we spend, but *how* we spend.

What are systems and systemic sin?

- Systems dictate who gets what, when and how. Systems do not have to be sanctioned to be true.
- Systemic sins are the entrenched injustices that exist within systems.

This is a tension we live with. As inherent participants within the systems, we are complicit in them.

1 Corinthians 3:9-15

v. 9 – Paul roots our identity in Christ. As God's field and His building, we are not working for ourselves, but for Him.

v. 10 – This verse goes right to the heart of individualism. We are building something that matters for others and that others will build on. What we build matters.

v. 11 – Jesus is the cornerstone, the firm foundation, the one upon whom we rest our lives and our hope.

v. 12-15 – We can build with different materials: intention, effort, value. This is not about reward but about what we leave for others. Do we leave systems of injustice, or do we leave options of living differently?

When did we stop building with care?

Consumerism → Commonality Individualism → Relationship

2 Corinthians 8:1-7 – Paul is reminding them to hold it all together, that excellence in one area calls for excellence in others.

What can even be done?

- Naming has significant value
- Ask questions
- Choose people and relationships
- Small, intentional changes
- Conversation with God about these idols – let Him reveal the tension

Two Idols

Individualism is the rampant, unwavering emphasis on self and the rights of the individual.

Consumerism teaches us that we are at our best when we are taking in, consuming goods and services. It tells us that these things are the true source of happiness and that the more we have, the better we are.

Neither is the language of the Bible.

This is a tension, there is no easy answer. But we are God's field, God's building. Let's live as though that's true, with everything we have.

HOME GROUP MATERIALS

OPTION 1: SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Corinthians 3:9-15 and ask these questions. It is a long text, so consider splitting up into sections. Give a lot of time to each one before moving to the next.

- What do you notice? Are there any patterns or repetitions? What questions do you have?
- What would it have meant to the original audience?
- What is the transferrable truth for us today?

Conversation starters:

- Paul is using building language – in your own life, what have you been building? How do you understand this to apply to your life?
- We aren't building physical things, so how can we think about gold, silver, wood, straw, hay, etc. – what kind of parallels can we draw in our world today?
- When we apply this text to the way we spend our money, what does that change in our conversation?
- How can we go from consumerism to commonality, from individualism to relationship?

OPTION 2: WHAT CAN EVEN BE DONE?

This is an intense and challenging topic. And we cannot avoid it completely or fix it completely. We simply have to walk through it.

Break up into smaller groups and consider some of the questions below:

- Examine the systems you engage with – how do your food, clothing, electronics, digital content, books, vehicles, house, assets get into your hands?
- What do you have that you could share? What are some alternative ways of thinking of your possessions?
- Be mindful of “free” things – there is always a human cost.
- Re-evaluate the word “need” in your vocabulary.



HOME GROUP MATERIALS

Read 1 Corinthians 3:9-15.

What are some ways – even small ones – we can build with care?
What are some areas in which you've already sought to be intentional?
What are some ways the Spirit is convicting you to ask questions.

Finish by reading Acts 4:32-35. In this description, what is inspiring to you? What would you like to try?

Pray.



10 Year Disciple

This series aims to help us take forward steps in developing the following 10 Year Disciple characteristic:

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

→ Stewarding God's resources as entrusted.

Pick up a copy of The 10 Year Disciple Resource Guide from the Info Desk to learn more.

