

# FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of March 26th, 2006

Matthew 6:19-34; Kingdom Living

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” Jim Elliot

## **For Small-Group Leaders**

Dear Leaders,

This week's study presses in upon us especially because we live in a “full stomach” culture. We all feel the tension between living in affluent America and heeding Jesus' words to not store up for ourselves treasures on earth. But what if in saying these words, Jesus is actually watching out for our best interests? What if his challenge to reexamine “material living” is really in truth a challenge that sets us free? From things. From money. From all that is associated with things and money.

These are hard words if we truly take them to heart. Hard - but also freeing.

Blessings to you and your group,

Scott

These small group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at [www.fbcdavis.org](http://www.fbcdavis.org).

### **Discussion Starters:**

- **Stolen goods:** Have you ever had something stolen or destroyed that you truly valued? What did it feel like to have that precious item taken from you?
- **Happiness strategies:** There are many suggested strategies for discovering happiness in our culture. What are some of them? What role do wealth and material goods play into people's strategies for discovering happiness?

### **Discussion Questions:**

Introduction: Read Matthew 6:19-34.

1. Consider Jesus' words, “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” What do you think this looks like in everyday life?
2. Does this mean that we cannot have personal property, savings accounts, stock options, etc?
3. Many people hold two jobs and seem to be able to satisfy two bosses. Why does Jesus say that it is impossible to serve two masters?
4. What does it mean to *serve* money or material goods? Why is serving God at odds with serving money?
5. In verses 19-24 we are given insight into how to live “worry-free.” How do our choices impact our ability to live worry-free?
6. Read the following quote to your group and ask for the group's response: *“It is not merely a question of ultimate rewards. It is much more than that, for the things we treasure actually govern our lives. What we value tugs at our minds and emotions; it consumes our time with planning, day-dreaming and effort to achieve...we tend to move toward the object on which we fix our gaze. In the same way, our whole lives drift relentlessly to the spot where our treasures are stored, because our hearts will take us there.”* D. A. Carson
7. What are some examples of people running after *all these things* (verse 32)?

### **Getting Personal:**

In what way(s) does this passage challenge you to re-examine your strategies and ambitions in life?

### **Living it this Week:**

Close your group time in a time of prayer.