



Lead Your Heart - Part 2

INTRODUCTION

God gives us many good things, and in order for them to stay good, they require us to work and keep at them. (Genesis 2:15) One of these things are our hearts. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." While there is a popular advice to follow our hearts, the Bible calls for us to lead our hearts instead.

Consumerist culture celebrates the concept of **upgrading**. It's not enough to have what you currently possess - you must get the next better version of it, or more of it. In a world that chases after **more**, when do we reach a point of contentment, of having 'made it'? Part 2 of this series addresses **greed** - how does it come about, and how can we lead our hearts out of it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share an example of the last time you felt the need to upgrade something in your lifestyle, and why?
2. Is it a problem to have increase in your life? God is not against increase - the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 proves that God is a generous God who wants to bless us with increase. So where do we draw the line between desiring increase, and greed?
3. Read Luke 12:13-21. Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application). You can use the following as a guide.
 - a. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.
 - b. Read the passage aloud
 - c. Ask some context questions of the passage:
 - What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
 - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
 - What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?
 - d. Some observation questions of the passage:
 - Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?

- What is the main point or points?
 - What surprises are there?
 - What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?
- e. Some leading questions of the text:
- How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
 - How does the passage relate to Jesus?
 - What does this teach us about God?
 - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
- f. Some application questions of the passage:
- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
 - Is there some attitude I need to change?
 - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Greed has nothing to do with how much we have - it is an attitude of the heart. How can we lead our heart out of greed and into generosity? Start practicing generosity with these 3 steps: (Good news - you don't need to be rich to do this!)

1. Be a percentage giver - set aside a number or a percentage that you will commit to giving away each month. Remember, it doesn't matter how big the number is, so you do not need to have a lot of money to do this.
2. Prioritise #1.
3. Progressively increase the number as you go!

The moment we recognise that all we have comes from God, and that He will always provide for us, we can have the confidence not to hold on too tightly to what we have, and instead, give frequently to others.

As we practice giving to others, we sow into eternity, and can enjoy our eternal treasures in heaven.

CHANGE YOUR MINDSET

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Matthew 6: 19-21