

## **(Don't) Give from the Heart**

LifeGroup Lesson  
November 12, 2017  
Matthew 6:19-21

### **OPENING PRAYER:**

Eternal and compassionate God, remind us in the midst of plenty that there are many around us in urgent need of food. Many in our town go hungry this day and as each month passes, help us to learn how to care deeply. Show us ways to respond as Jesus would and bless us as we feed and serve the hungry In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **BREAKING THE ICE:**

- What did you agree/disagree with the LifeTalk this week?
- Have you ever bought something reasonably expensive and used it because you felt obligated? What did you end up doing with the item?

### **WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:**

*Give from the heart.* We've all said it, believed it and even done it. So why did Jesus tell us **not** to live that way? Join us as we explore a revolutionary teaching about money that can change how you live, why you spend, and why you give. Best of all, it's a step toward a deeper relationship with Christ and a key in realizing your life's mission. Read Matthew 6:5-15

- What jumps out at you in this scripture?
- How does our stuff compete with our devotion to God?
- A theme of the sermon was that one of the best ways to get your heart engaged in something is to invest in it financially. How might this principle work in drawing you closer to God and to what God is trying to accomplish in the world?
- In what ways could automating giving and saving help you find margin and realize your mission?
- How do you think the practice of giving to God regularly might impact your faith (and the world)?
- What would you do differently with your finances if you were confident that God wanted the best for you in that area?

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or LifeTalk?
- This week, sit down and make arrangements to automate the important - your giving and your saving. You might even do this on the day you are fasting and praying this week. Download a form at [xpointumc.org/give](http://xpointumc.org/give)
- Make a meaningful change this week so you can begin to live with margin and live on mission.

### **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Lord, how much juice you can squeeze from a single grape.  
How much water you can draw from a single well.  
How great a fire you can kindle from a tiny spark.  
How great a tree you can grow from a tiny seed.  
My soul is so dry that by itself it cannot pray;  
Yet you can squeeze from it the juice of a thousand prayers.  
My soul is so parched that by itself it cannot love;  
Yet you can draw from it boundless love for you and for my neighbor.  
My soul is so cold that by itself it has no joy;  
Yet you can light the fire of heavenly joy within me.  
My soul is so feeble that by itself it has no faith;  
Yet by your power my faith grows to a great height.  
Thank you for prayer, for love, for joy, for faith;  
Let me always be prayerful, loving, joyful, faithful.  
--Guigo the Carthusian (12th century)