

## Small Group Discussion

### Welcome

When did you last convince yourself you needed something that you really didn't?  
Or  
What are some of your treasures? (what would you save in event of fire?)

### Worship

Read Psalm 65.  
Share prayers of gratitude leading to a moment of quiet. The meditation below may help enter silence:

*"Imagine that you are walking down a staircase that begins in your mind and winds slowly down to your heart. Take a few moments to imagine walking this staircase, leaving all the many worries and thoughts behind, slowly descending into a secret room or chapel within your heart, where God waits to meet with you"*

### Word

Read Matthew 6:19-33

*What most struck you in the passage? (Allow a short period of general discussion as people let Christ's word sink in.)*

*Why would Jesus speak of God as the treasure? What ideas in the passage lead you to believe that God being our treasure is a good idea?*

*On Sunday the minister mentioned "tithing" as a primary discipline for*

*ordering our hearts when it comes to money. What do you think of that idea?*

Discuss this thought: *When Jesus uses the Aramaic term mammon to refer to wealth, he is giving it a personal and spiritual character. When he declares, "You cannot serve God and mammon," he is personifying mammon as a rival god. In saying this, Jesus is making it unmistakably clear that money is not some impersonal medium of exchange. No, mammon is a power that seeks to dominate us.<sup>1</sup>*

### Work

*Share those things that worry you and pray for one another ending each prayer with the words from Mt 6:25.*

*People who "Seek first the Kingdom" "place top priority on identifying and involving themselves in what God is doing and in the kind of rightness he has (6: 33). Ask these questions each time you meet: What is God doing where you live/work/worship? How can you share in that work?"*

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## Homework

Commit to memory the verse/s that most struck you in today's reading.

Read Matthew 6:24 slowly every day for a week, and ask God to show you the masters your actions reveal. What do you learn about what you want but have

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<sup>1</sup> <https://renovare.org/blog/money-and-the-spiritual-life>

never stated explicitly? If you're really brave, ask a friend or someone you live with to suggest what your masters are. Try to smile at what this person says.<sup>2</sup>

Take your monthly/annual budget with you into your next devotion/prayer time. Share with God your concerns, your needs, your deep desires. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in stewarding your affairs.

Do you face financial stress? At DMC knowledgeable people volunteer their time to assist in helping us manage finances. Call the church office to find out more.

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<sup>2</sup> Johnson, Jan. Abundant Simplicity: Discovering the Unhurried Rhythms of Grace