**Small Group Material - Matthew 6. 1-4, 19-24, 33**

**Thy will be done - God and money, giving in secret**

**Welcome** What did you treasure when you were a child? Why?

**Worship** *Psalm 84 expresses longing to be in God’s presence.* Read the psalm out loud. Then give people a minute to ponder it, sitting quietly with God. Resist the temptation to share.

Then encourage prayers of thanks.

You could listen to (or sing together but it isn’t a very easy one to sing) ‘Better is one day’ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PdXmvMTyx0

**Word**

**A)** Look up Malachi 3. 7-11, Deut 15. 7,8,11; Proverbs 19.17. *These verses are just a few which help us understand the Old Testament teaching on giving to God and to the poor.*

What is difference between a tithe and an offering?

**B) Read Matthew 6.1-4**

How have the scribes and Pharisees corrupted giving to the poor? What was their motivation? their reward? How does their hypocrisy contrast with genuine compassion for the poor?

How should we give? (Jesus says ‘secretly and then forgetting about it’, v3-4.) What is our reward?

**C) Read Mt 6.19-24, 33**

1. v.19-21 Why is treasure on earth a bad investment? What is the link between treasure and heart? How does your choice of treasure affect your attitude towards life? (Look ahead to the next passage, v25f)

2. v.22-23 ‘*Spiritual vision is our capacity to see the world from God’s point of view.’* What makes a ‘good eye’ and a ‘bad eye’?

3. v.24 What alternatives does Jesus propose with respect to masters (24)? Why is it so difficult to serve both? How does your choice of master affect your attitude towards life?

**D)** Considering this past week, is your ‘bank’ on earth or in heaven? What do you need to do to change accounts? Who has been your ‘master’ lately? Why?

**Witness**

We have just had a Gift Day. We were giving to five different projects (Innovista, Bibles for Burundi, Trinity Room Makeover, Chippy Fun Day, enVision). Ask God to touch your heart to enable you to give generously and sacrificially.

Bishop Alf Stanley (of Tanzania) used to say, ‘Think of a number and then double it.’

Who could you give to this week (time, attention, help) without telling anyone? Share if you would like the group’s support.

Pray for the different projects we are supporting.

How are you going to get involved with our mission events?