

WEEK 6 - THE PASSIONATE DISCIPLE

A PASSIONATE WARNING, FREEDOM & FAMILY

10 A PASSIONATE WARNING

Mark 10:23(NIV) Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NIV) But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV) Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

So we come back to our choices.

1. LIVE A LIFE OF SELFISH LUXURY THAT FORSAKES THE POOR.

2. LIVE A LIFE OF SELFLESS LOVE FOR THE SAKE OF THE LOST AND THE POOR.

PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

1. As families identify the necessities and luxuries in your life. Then begin selling and giving away your luxuries for the sake of the lost and the poor.

2. Set a simple cap on your lifestyle and then give away everything else. Set a simple cap on your lifestyle based on food and covering necessities. Decide this is what I or my family needs to live on.

11 A PASSIONATE FREEDOM

Mark 10:26–31 (NIV) The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."²⁸ Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!"²⁹ Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Try to honestly answer this question. In your life or in your family are you giving less than your ability? Are you giving according to your ability? Or are you giving beyond your ability? Less than, according to, or beyond your ability.

Let's stop asking how much you can spare and start asking how much is it going to take? What can we spare and what will it take?

12 A PASSIONATE FAMILY

Mark 10:28–31 (NIV) Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!"²⁹ "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Proverbs 14:21 (NASB) He who despises his neighbor sins, But happy is he who is gracious to the poor.

Proverbs 22:9 (NIV) The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

Acts 20:35 (NIV) ...Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Isaiah 58:10–11 (NIV) ...if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.¹¹ The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Which world are we going to live for? We must decide and my encouragement is to decide today to take our lives and our possessions and to give them to God and to ask him to spend them radically and passionately for the sake of the lost and the poor around the world.

QUESTIONS - WEEK 6 (APRIL 1) - THE PASSIONATE DISCIPLE

Group Leaders: Do not feel you have to get through all of these questions. Go with a sense of the Spirit's leading.

Share anything God impacted you with from John's message.

Key Passages: Mark 10:17-31 & 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

A Passionate Warning

Read Mark 10:23. In what ways are your blessings a barrier to being a disciple of Christ?

Read 1 Timothy 6:6,8. What has helped you to become content? What fuels discontentment in you?

Personally, or as a family, identify the necessities and luxuries in your life. Then begin selling and giving away your luxuries for the sake of the lost and the poor.

How much do you **need** to live on? Set a simple cap on your lifestyle and then give away everything else. Set a simple cap on your lifestyle based on food and covering necessities. Decide this is what I or my family needs to live on.

A Passionate Freedom

Talk about how you have been freed up in any way over this series.

Try to honestly answer this question. In your life or in your family are you giving less than your ability? Are you giving according to your ability? Or are you giving beyond your ability?

Are you happy with your answer? What in the past has enabled, and will help to enable, you to give beyond your ability?

John said, "Let's stop asking how much you can spare and start asking how much is it going to take to make the Gospel known among the least reached peoples on the earth? What's it going to take to bring water and food to unprecedented millions in the world?" What is your part here?

A Passionate Family

How do you feel about your family, the Church, in the light of this teaching from Jesus in Mark 10:28-31?

John mentioned the significance of the Father in this passage. How has this picture of God being your Father, impacted you as a disciple of Christ? How can you encourage others with this reality?

How has the church family helped you to live out your life as a passionate disciple? How have you helped others to do that?

"Which world are we going to live for? We must decide and my encouragement is to decide today to take our lives and our possessions and to give them to God and to ask Him to spend them radically and passionately for the sake of the lost and the poor around the world." John Bond