



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Great Opportunity: For God's Glory

Luke 12:13-21, 32-34

February 20/21, 2021

Part 1: Pray

The primary goal for our Life Group meetings is to *experience Jesus in our midst in his presence and power*. We want him to be at work by His Spirit ministering to us and through us to one another so that people are cared for and encouraged to lead God-pleasing lives. Ask God to reveal his truth in this passage to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passages from the sermon. Keep a focus on keywords, repeated phrases, or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. Ray began with the story of John Ortberg's grandmother who always won at Monopoly. After she won, she would always say, "Don't worry about it, Johnny. One day you'll learn to play the game." The game of Monopoly is all about acquisition. Is this the goal of the game of life? If not, what is?
2. Ray summarized our purpose as people by describing us as "pieces of art created to draw attention to the Artist and nothing else." How does this help clarify your purpose?

The Aim of Life: Don't Be a Fool

1. If we are making the aim of life to be our wealth, our prestige, our influence, our spouse or kids, what are we really making the aim of our lives? Why is this foolish?
2. Psalm 53:1 states bluntly, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" We often think this only refers to the irreputable and degenerate. Is it possible for the upright, the respected, the wealthy, even the sacrificially generous to live without reference to God? How so?
3. Luther wrote that "Scripture describes man as so curved in upon himself that he uses not only physical but even spiritual goods for his own purposes and in all things seeks only himself." Does this accurately describe our natural condition? Do you see evidence of this in your own life?

The Aim of Life: Be Rich toward God

1. We were made to love, to worship, to center our lives around something other than ourselves. What has helped you see that life is not about you?
2. According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism: "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever." Explain this in your own words. Personalize the answer. How can this be true of you?
3. How can you be rich toward God? (See Matthew 6:19-20, 33; 19:21; 1 Timothy 6:17-19.)

The Aim of Life: It's God Who Is Rich Towards Us

1. Name some of the ways that God is rich toward you—physically, mentally, socially, financially, spiritually.
2. Reread Luke 12:32-34. How should God's grace and generosity motivate you to be more gracious and generous?
3. Ray Ortland writes about the day he finally beat his grandmother at Monopoly:

I can still remember. It happened at Marvin Gardens. I took everything my grandmother had. I destroyed her financially and psychologically. I watched her give up her last dollar and quit in utter defeat. It was the greatest moment of my life. I had won *Monopoly*. I was cleverer, and stronger, and more ruthless than anyone else at the table. I was the master of the board.

But then my grandmother had one more lesson to teach me. The greatest lesson comes at the end of the game. And here it is. When the game is over it all goes back in the box. All the houses and hotels. All that property – Boardwalk and Park Place. All the railroads and utility companies. All that wonderful money. Gone. Gone. When the game is over, and it always ends, it all goes back in the box.

How should knowing that one day all your treasures, wealth and even property will one day all be gone, change the way you play the game?

4. Ray asked us to commit to making a commitment at the end of the Great Opportunity campaign. Take some time to pray over your response.

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has not heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion? How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?