

Reflection Questions: Luke 12:22-34

For the message, "God's Pleasure is to Give You His Kingdom" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on ***October 2, 2016***

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 12:22-34

A summary of the message: "The Kingdom of God" was central to the message of Jesus, and yet, many people are not really sure what he's talking about. But as we see the kingdom as the reign of God setting this world to right—both in the ministry of Jesus and finally in "the renewal of all things," then we can understand not only why this teaching was central to Jesus, but we discover why Jesus said that God's good pleasure is to give us His Kingdom. And we can begin to see why Jesus thought this ought to delight us and define us.

Key Quotes:

- Allen Wakabayashi, "What is the kingdom of God...? It has to do with God's reign breaking into history and into our world in a decisive new way to bring restoration to God's lost creation....The Kingdom of God was about God's great restoration, the reinstatement of God's intentions for his entire creation. It was God's kingship being applied in a world that had gone astray."
- Ed Welch, "How do you seek the kingdom? When you seek the King, you are seeking the kingdom..."

Bottom Line:

- The kingdom of God is fundamentally about the reign of God restoring a broken creation, of God's setting the world to right, about the renewal of all things, about making the world the way it's supposed to be.
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QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Jesus said that we should seek his kingdom in contrast to worrying about our lives. What kinds of questions does this prompt for you?
- What wrong thoughts or actions might result when I'm more preoccupied with the worries of my life than I am about the kingdom of God?
- Am I currently taking this truth seriously? If I really believed and held to this, how would things change? How would my life look differently?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What kind of community of faith is this text calling us to become? Be specific as you can.
- What kind of community is this text calling us to become for the sake of the world? In other words, how does this text form our missional identity to live out and proclaim the gospel of Jesus?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- What questions do you think people in our city would ask of this text? Think of your colleagues, neighbors, and friends.
- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith? What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points...

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- _____
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