



Discussion Guide

"Riches Stink!"

Week of 3/18/2012

The Point: Appetites are Never Truly Satisfied.

Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12

Discussion Questions

- What are two things that stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be silly, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- What is your favorite food? What could you eat everyday and never get tired of it?
- Have you ever taken time to think about your appetite? Isn't it strange that we can eat and only a few hours later be hungry again?
- According to Genesis 25:27-34, what was Esau willing to sacrifice for the sake of a bowl of stew? [Have those who were there for the Point on Sunday explain the significance of the birthright in OT Israel]
- Have someone read Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12 out loud then have someone read Luke 12:15-21. As these passages are read, what parallels do you notice? What ideas or phrases are repeated?
- What part of our money will be available to us when we die?
- Why do you think people's desire for money always end up as an appetite? Why do people always want more? Share an example.
- Why do you think God is so concerned about our desire for "more" when it comes to money? (see 1 Timothy 6:7-10)
- Do you think that money can be a "bowl of stew"? Why or why not? [Did you just make excuses in that answer to justify your desire for "more"?
- What is your "bowl of stew"? What short-term thing are you trading for the sake of your relationship with Christ? Will that thing really matter when you die? What do you need to do to reframe your appetite?
- Take some time to pray for your group in these areas.

Bible References

Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12(NIV) ...^{5:10} Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless....^{6:7} Everyone's toil is for their mouth, yet their appetite is never satisfied...

Genesis 25:27-34(NIV) ²⁷The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents.²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. ²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished.³⁰ He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." ³² "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"³³ But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

Luke 12:15-21(NIV) ¹⁵ Then he [Jesus] said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."¹⁶ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest.¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'¹⁸ Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.'¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'²¹ "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

1 Timothy 6:7-10(NIV) 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.