

gracepoint

A M E T H O D I S T C H U R C H

## Homegroup material

*Repossessing our* POSSESSIONS

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## I. Introductory Discussion Questions

1. What stood out for you most about the “Repossessing our Possessions” sermon?
2. We read in Ezra (1 vs 1-11) how God miraculously restored the land and possessions of the Israelites that they had lost because of their disobedience to Him. Do you think that the dispossession we see happening around us could be a result of disobedience to the laws of God?
3. The desert fathers were a group of early Christians who believed that all possessions were evil and sinful and therefore, they took vows of poverty and often lived in exile in the desert. Why do you think they reached the conclusion that possessions were obstacles to spiritual life and growth?
4. Are there any ways in which your possessions are an obstacle to your spiritual life or growth at present?
5. The Scriptures reveal that possessions are not sinful in themselves, but that they can be used for great things for God or for great destruction, depending on the condition of our hearts. Read the following Scriptures and discuss what they reveal to you about possessions:

- **Matthew 19 vs 16-23:**

“Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life? Why do you ask me about what is good? Jesus replied. There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments. Which ones? the man enquired. Jesus replied, 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbour as yourself.' All these I have kept, the young man said. What do I still lack? Jesus answered, If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me. When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.”

- **Mark 4 vs 18-19:**

“Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.”

- **Luke 12 vs 13-21:**

“Someone in the crowd said to him, Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me. Jesus replied, Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you? Then he said to them, Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. And he told them this parable: The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops. Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.' 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?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God.”

6. What do you think it means to be “rich towards God” (Luke 12 vs 21) and how do you think we can ensure that we live this way?
7. We live in a society in which nothing seems to be sacred anymore. How do you think we can reclaim the things God has given us to be sacred?

## **II. The first transfer is from one house to another**

1. If you honestly evaluate your life, do you think that God or the world is getting your best right now? Why?
2. How are you currently using your God-given talents, gifts and abilities in the house and service of God?
3. Read Ephesians 2 vs 10 below. What are the good works you think God has prepared for you to do in this season of your life?

- **Ephesians 2 vs 10:**

“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

### **III. The second transfer is from one hand to another**

1. Read the passage from Exodus below. When Moses asked God how he was to fulfil the task God had given him, God replied “What’s in your hand?” When are simply willing to give God what we have, He can do miraculous and extraordinary things with them. What do you have in your hand right now that you can give to God for His use and purposes?

- **Exodus 4 vs 1-2:**

“And Moses answered and said, ‘But, behold, they will not believe me nor listen to my voice. For they will say, the LORD has not appeared to you.’ And the LORD said to him, ‘What is this in your hand?’ And he said, ‘A staff.’ ”

2. Is there something in your life you are struggling to hand over to God or to which you are clinging for some reason?

3. Why do you think we tend to cling to what we have and what we have been given, or why do you think it is difficult for us to put our possessions, our abilities and ourselves in God’s hands?

### **IV. The third transfer is from one land to another**

1. We were not created for this land / world, but for the next. Read and reflect on the following Scriptures and what they reveal to us about living for another land:

- **Isaiah 62 vs 1-5:**

“For Zion’s sake I will not be silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until its righteousness goes out as brightness, and her salvation as a burning lamp. And the nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you will be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name. You also will be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You will no more be called Forsaken; nor will your land any more be called Desolate; but you will be called My Delight is in her, and your land, Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land is married. For as a young man marries a virgin, so will your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so will your God rejoice over you.”

- **Matthew 6 vs 19-21:**

“Do not lay up treasures on earth for yourselves, where moth and rust corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up treasures in Heaven for yourselves, where neither moth nor rust corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

- **Colossians 3 vs 2-4:**

“Be mindful of things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. When Christ our Life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

2. How do you think we can ensure that we are storing up treasures in heaven?
3. How do you think we can go about keeping an eternal focus, while still being present in the moment?

**V. Call to action**

1. What will we do with what we have discovered in this session?
2. How will we hold each other accountable to this?