

## Group Discussion Questions

### Sermon Series: 7 Questions That Jesus Asked “What Does It Profit a Man to Gain the Whole World, But Lose His Soul?”

**Sunday Mar 17, 2024 - Pastor Chuck Booher**

Matthew 16:26 (and Mark 8:36) records a profound question asked by Jesus: “What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, but lose his soul?” Jesus emphasized the importance of the soul over worldly success. While desirable on the surface, material wealth holds no lasting significance if obtained at the expense of one’s soul. This question highlights the transient nature of earthly possessions compared to the eternal value of one’s soul. No amount of material gain can compensate for the loss of one’s soul and their eternal home. Your soul is eternal; you will live for eternity. The question is, where? Heaven or hell?

#### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What are things in your life that you value more than money?
2. Have you ever owned a valuable item, only to see its worth depreciate over time?

#### SERMON NOTES REVIEW

Looking back at your sermon notes from this weekend’s teaching, was there anything said that caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

#### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Matthew 7:13-14 together. What do you think are characteristics of the narrow path that Jesus refers to?
2. Read Matthew 16:24 together. What is your interpretation of Jesus’ instruction to his disciples to “deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Me?”
3. Read Luke 12:15-21 together. What are some practical implications of this parable for our daily lives and attitudes toward material possessions and the uncertainty of life?

#### TAKING IT HOME

In the short story “The Devil and Daniel Webster”, Jabez Stone makes a pact with the devil, selling his soul in exchange for 7 years of good luck and prosperity. After amassing more fortune than he could have possibly imagined, the pact’s expiration looms, and the devil comes to claim what is owed. Upon reviewing this short story, the author’s attorney said, “I can’t believe he would sell his soul for so much.” Conversely, the author’s pastor said, “I can’t believe people would sell their souls for so little.” The narrative underscores the perils of prioritizing material wealth above all else, only to ultimately lose the soul. Alternatively, Jesus instructs his followers to prioritize seeking God’s kingdom and righteousness above all else (Matthew 6:33). He encourages them to focus on aligning their lives with God’s will and living in accordance with his principles. By doing so, Jesus promises that all the things they need – such as food, clothing, and other provisions – will be provided for them.

## **PRAYER TIME**

During your closing prayer, ask the Lord to unveil to everyone present any priorities that may be taking precedence over Him. Ask for wisdom to comprehend these distractions and empower you to detach from them, redirecting your focus to the pursuit of God's kingdom above all else.

## **ACTION STEPS**

This week, take intentional steps to review your daily priorities, identifying any aspect of your life that may overshadow your pursuit of God's kingdom. Dedicate time each day to prayer, seeking wisdom and clarity. Ask God to illuminate areas where adjustments are needed, whether it involves adding new practices or letting go of distractions.