

# DIVERGENT: *living the Sermon on the Mount*



Purpose: to live out the kingdom values of God found in the sermon like God's presence (light and love), redemptive deliverance, and restorative justice (mercy, peace and righteousness).

## → Interpretation of Possessions – what did Jesus mean?

- On Sunday, Micah said, "Giving myself over to money gathering and possession hoarding will only distort my vision of kingdom living and result in foolishness."
  - READ Matthew 6:19-24, emphasis on v. 24
  - Jesus clearly says, "No one can serve two masters"...one's affections are for one or the other. There are two masters: one master is God and the other is money or possessions. Jesus' teaching leads each disciple to a decision.
- Hermeneutics of Possessions
  - A good hermeneutic (interpretation/meaning) requires both *challenging our world* but also *adapting and adopting Jesus' vision* to our world.
  - So, for his teachings on possessions here, our calling is to follow Jesus *in our context*, rather than to re-create *his context in our world*.
  - Jesus wants us to live out his kingdom vision in our world. So, in what ways can you simplify your life to focus on God's kingdom?

## → What about the poor – is Jesus being unrealistic?

- READ Matthew 6:25-34
- In Jesus' context, he was teaching to disciples, who probably would not have a bounty, but would have enough for sustenance. His teachings here assume the general provisions for life, and he is teaching followers about how to live in that kind of world...nothing more or less.
- Or, you could think about it this way: Jesus is speaking to mission-sent disciples with access to other who will provide for them (as is often done today) and in that context Jesus urges them to trust God and not worry about provisions.
- Something to reflect on: Jesus does not call us to be care-less here; but to be care-free about provisions.
- Spend some time in silence and reflection remembering the times when God has provided for your basic needs. How does this remembrance reshape what we tend to value most?