

# WELCOME TO THE RESISTANCE

## Hearse With a Luggage Rack | Discussion Notes

Jesus talks about money and materialism a lot - 1 in every 7 verses in the Luke's Gospel is about money and our possessions.

- Why do you think he spoke about money so much?
- Philip said that worrying about money is the main cause of stress and relationship breakdown in the UK. Does this surprise you? What is your relationship with money and material things like?

Read Luke 12:16-21 together. From this story we'll see 3 thoughts we often hear from the world about money and materialism: 1) It's all about you, 2) it's all for you and 3) more money = less worry.

**1) IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU** - "He thought to himself, 'what shall I do? I have no place to store **my** crops'. We are told the money and material things we have are just what we have earned and deserved. We feel entitled to ownership instead of grateful for stewardship. We equate our value to our money and possessions. We have stuff because we're worth it.

- Have you felt yourself thinking this way?
- What are the dangers of this way of thinking for yourself personally?
- What does this view mean for those who don't have money?

**2) IT'S ALL FOR YOU** - "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barn and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain." We can often fall into the trap of 'lifestyle creep' where our lifestyle just keeps on increasing as our wealth increases, so rather than being content with what we have we keep wanting and expecting more and more.

- Have you experienced lifestyle creep yourself? What is the problem with this thinking?
- What is the impact does this way of thinking - that we can just keep building ourselves bigger barns - have on the poor? What about the environment?

**3) MORE MONEY = LESS WORRY** - "I'll say to myself, "you have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat drinks and be merry." We think that if we have more money life will be easy, despite research showing that it isn't true! In fact, no matter how wealthy you are, almost everyone believes they will be truly happy when they have 25% more money.

- Have you found yourself thinking "more money = less worry"
- What is the problem with this way of thinking?

Rather than just looking at what is wrong with our approach to money, as disciples of Jesus we need to ask what we can do change our relationship with money. Read through Luke 12:30-32 to see what Jesus says.

- Jesus says that instead of worrying, seek God's Kingdom instead. Why would this change our perspective and how can we actually 'seek God's Kingdom' in day-to-day life?
- Jesus also said that instead of fear, give your money away. Why does giving help us alleviate fear around money?

You may want to spend some time explaining how giving works at Metro and encourage those in your Hub to think about giving. They can do this via <http://woodlandsmetro.church/giving>. Finally, spend time together praying, especially for those who are struggling with money at the moment.