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Week 3 – He is King...and He is Worthy!

Introduction:

Ideas to avoid:

- _____ theology: says money and possessions are bad, and that being poor is the mark of true spirituality...
- _____ theology: says that money and possessions are the focus, and that being healthy and wealthy is the mark of true blessing...
- _____ theology: says that neither of these extremes is biblical, and that whether we are rich or poor, we follow Jesus...

Matthew 6:19-24 - Four Tests to Help us Get Honest about Money:

1. The _____ test (vs. 19-20)

Q: *"How long will something last?"*

2. The _____ test (vs. 21)

Q: *"Where am I investing God's treasure?"*

3. The _____ test (vs. 22-23)

Q: *"Where is my focus?"*

"If the eye is properly focused on the light, the body can function properly in its movement. But if the eye is out of focus and seeing double, it results in unsteady movements. It is most difficult to make progress while trying to look in two directions at the same time." (Warren Wiersbe)

Proverbs 22:7

4. The _____ test (vs. 24)

Q: *"Who do I serve? Who or what is the Lord of my life?"*

The Big Idea:

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose..."
(Jim Elliot). Christ is the King...and He is worthy!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND FAMILY/PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. During your journey as a Christ follower, have you been personally affected by either “poverty theology” (God wants you to be poor) or “prosperity theology” (God wants you to be rich)? If so, share about your experience(s)...

Ponderings:

2. When you think about the “**durability test**” (How long will something last?), how does truly fixing our eyes on eternal things empower us to live freer and freer from the rat-race “accumulate more?” How have you noticed your own perspective becoming more eternally-focused as you mature in Christ? Discuss...
3. With regard to the “**passion test**” (Where am I investing God's treasure?), what are some of the most common distractions that keep you/us from being more “rich toward God?” (see Luke 12:21).
4. In relation to the “**mind test**” (Where is my focus?), how is our daily thought-life connected to our behavior with regard to financial stewardship? Repentance means “a change mind/perspective.” In light of this reality, how or why is the handling of money such a deeply spiritual issue of discipleship as a believer?
5. Concerning the “master test” (Who or what is truly the Lord of my life?), what evidences have you seen in the handling of your own finances that testify to Christ's Lordship in your life? How has your view of money changed since the time you first received Christ as Lord and Savior?

Promptings:

6. The great missionary Jim Elliott wrote: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose...” When it comes to handling God's money, how does this truth inspire you to begin thinking and behaving in greater alignment with what truly matters to God? Try to identify specifics rather than talking in mere generalities...