



06.30.2013 // GROUP DISCUSSION FROM THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE // BY Jessie Davis

## EVERYTHING MUST GO

### START

If you have gone to a yard sale, what is the best thing you ever found? What is the worst thing you ever saw someone trying to sell?

### SHARE

Welcome to our series, "Yard Sale." It's summer time and we know that means backyard barbecues, hot weather and the inevitable yard sale. Yard sales are a glorious time, where we try to get rid of all that stuff we don't need that we thought was so important just a few years ago. Isn't that just like our lives? We can fill it up with so much junk; it's hard to tell what is important and what's not. So let's take inventory and clean house during this series and get rid of all that junk and see what God wants to say to us about our lives.

This week's message is entitled "Everything Must Go." If we were honest, we would all agree we tend to hang onto things, the good, the bad, the cheap, and expensive. Sometimes it is hard to let go of the things that stand between us and a close relationship with God. Let's take a look at a story of a young man struggling to let go.

Let's read **Mark 10:17-27** and we will look at one of the verses:

#### **Matthew 19:20**

The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"

This young man has everything most of us would long for like youth, wealth, and power. He is trying to live an admirable life and trying to do the right things.

**Why do you think the young man feels that he is lacking?**

**At times, can you relate to this feeling of lacking something?**

**How do you think most people try to compensate in life when they feel they are lacking?**

**Are you surprised at Jesus' response to the young man? Why or why not?**



## GROW

When you have a heart that is not surrendered, you find a lack of peace. This young ruler sensed that lack of peace. When we lack in life, we tend to live with higher levels of anxiety and restlessness. We can even try to negotiate with God on what we must do to get the benefits of a relationship with Him. Let's focus on this for a moment:

### Mark 10:17-18

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

**Why do you think the man was focused on what he must "do" to inherit eternal life?**

**Do you find it easy to surrender to God or to try to do more good things instead? Why?**

The Holman New Testament Commentary provides insight to Jesus' intent:

Mark is the only Gospel writer who records that Jesus looked at him and loved him. It gives us a sharp image of a God who loves unconditionally, compassionately. This is the God who asks us to follow him. Some interpreters have taken this verse to mean that poverty is more blessed than riches. But Jesus did not intend this meaning here. He was declaring that nothing must come between a person and devotion to God. Some people may have to give up money. Others may have to abandon a cherished dream. Still others may have to surrender family. But one thing is certain: Jesus' love comes before the command. Whatever he commands us to do is because of his love for us.

**What would you say are the biggest obstacles to trusting God with everything in our lives?**

## MOVE

Jesus deeply loves each one of us. In this story of the rich young ruler, Jesus shows great love to him by challenging him to let go of the one thing holding him back from full devotion. It is hard to say what might have happened if the young man would have let go. It makes you wonder how that story could have ended. The good news is that we are still part of a story and we can choose to follow Jesus with our lives. God has a promise for each of us today for He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine:

### Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

**What is one thing during this study that you have learned that you hadn't thought of before?**



**What is the one thing you think God might be asking you to trust him with?**

**What is one thing you can do this week to trust God in that area?**

## **PRAY**

Life is a journey of ups, downs, victories, and successes. This Life Group is created to celebrate with those who are celebrating, and grieve with those who are grieving. Wherever we are on our journey, God unites us when we bear each other's burdens. Spend some time praying for each other's burdens, hopes, and journey toward spiritual growth.