

**Morning Star Church**  
**Small Group Study Guide**  
"That's Nonsense" Nov 7-8, 2009

**Message Synopsis:** Pastor Mike began a new series of messages called *That's Nonsense*. This series is designed to help us understand that our finances are part of the resources that God gives us to be used for His glory. This past weekend Pastor Mike taught us the concept of finances that most people believe is that our money pulls us to where we need to focus our attention. But Jesus taught that it is possible that when we focus on what we believe in and treasure it in our hearts, our financial resources will follow our beliefs. Money is intended to be a blessing from God, not a chain that imprisons us to our greed.

*Don't store up treasures on earth! Moths and rust can destroy them, and thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, store up your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy them, and thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will always be where your treasure is... You cannot be the slave of two masters! You will love one more than the other or be more loyal to one than the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*

Jesus, Matthew 6:19-21, 24 (CEV)

**Additional passages:** Ecclesiastes 5:10-11; Luke 12:13-34; Luke 18:18-30; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; Matthew 6:31-34.

**Questions for your small group to consider:**

1. All of us have been influenced by the economic recession of the past year. We have seen Chrysler, Citigroup, Boeing and many other *financial icons* in the STL area stumble, share with your group how your view of "*financial security*" has been affected by this.
2. Pastor Mike used the illustration of money and our heart being chained together, what insight did you gain about how they *follow* each other?
3. Discuss the truth Jesus is trying to show in Matthew 6:21, how does our checkbook reveal the priorities of our lives?
4. It would be easy to focus on our scarcity in the current financial downturn but according to Matthew 6:31-33, Jesus says when we set heavenly priorities over everything else God will supply all we need. Share with your group how we can encourage each other with this truth and not be fearful.

**Prayer Requests:**

**Morning Star Church**  
**“That’s Nonsense”**  
**Part 1 Sermon Notes - November 7-8, 2009**

Jesus wasn't a FUND-RAISER; He was a FAITH-RAISER.

**The Heart of the Matter**

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”* (Jesus, Matthew 5:8)

*“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”* (Jesus, Luke 6:45)

*“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’”* (Jesus, Mark 12:29-30)

**The Battle for the Heart**

*“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”* (Jesus, Matthew 6:24)

Madison Ave: Where your heart is, there your money will be also.

Jesus: Where your money is, there your heart will be also.

*“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* (Jesus, Luke 12:32-34)

Madison Avenue's motive: PROFIT!

Jesus' motive: BLESSING OF ABUNDANT & ETERNAL LIFE!

**Discipline: TITHING**

***For further devotional study ...***

Day 1 Matthew 6:19-24

Day 2 Matthew 6: 25-34

Day 3 Luke 12: 13-34

Day 4 Luke 18:18-30

Day 5 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Day 6 Proverbs 30:7-9

Day 7: Genesis 14:14-20