

TOTAL REVOLUTION in ME

Session #4: From Physical Value To Spiritual Value

Session Objective: The aim of this session is get students to realise that a conversion of the whole person, the **TOTAL REVOLUTION** of the inner self called for by Jesus involved a movement from physical value to spiritual value. The people of this fading world value money and place their trust in possessions; the people of the Kingdom of God store up treasure in heaven. Jesus said: Where your treasure is, there your heart is also. In this session students will ask the questions:

- What do I treasure?
- What are my priorities in life?
- What is God's way to understand money?
- What really matters?

Minimum Prep: Read through the entire session outline. Prepare an environment where discussion can occur. For this session it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that you do the extended prep.

Extended Prep: Use the following movie clips for cultural punch.

- The movie "**Cast Away**" tells the story of a man named Chuck. At the start of the movie Chuck is a time driven workaholic with no time to make relational commitments and no time to take care of his most basic physical needs (like his toothache!). On a trip for his company (FedEx) his plane crashes on a deserted island and Chuck is stranded alone for 5 years. Over the course of the movie his priorities change. He escapes from the island a new man having learned the true meaning of life. This movie could be broken up into three 50-minute blocks with a full week of discussion afterward or you could show pertinent clips. The point you are trying to make with the clips is that Chuck had to be stripped of everything before he learned what was important. We have the chance to learn his session without going through his struggle.
- The movie "**Big**" (also starring Tom Hanks coincidentally enough) tells the story of a little boy who got his wish and became an adult. He got a job, an apartment, a girlfriend and all the toys and pop machines he ever dreamed of. Only one problem: Once he has it all he realises that all he really wanted were his family and friends, the very things he can't have now. Of course since this is a movie and has to have a happy ending, his situation is reversed and he gets to go back to his family and friends and

start over. You could show the clip where Tom Hanks' character surveys his apartment full of toys and Pepsi machines and decides he doesn't want any of it; he wants to go home.

Session Outline

Leader Preamble:

Jesus is constantly challenging the way people understand life and reality. He says radical things like: "The last shall be first, the first shall be last and Blessed are the poor" What's the deal? Was Jesus a communist? Or did he just know something that we don't? There is a really weird verse in the Old Testament that says: "For every matter has its time and way, although the troubles of mortals lie heavy upon them. Indeed, they do not know what it is to be, for who can tell them how it will be?" (Ecclesiastes 8:6-7) What that verse is saying is that the huge bummer of life is that most of us spend all our days chasing things we will never be happy with if we get them, but how are we to know this since you only live life once and no one from beyond the grave gives us advice?! That's the beauty of Jesus! He's the one person who lived life right and died and came back to prove he had it figured out! His advice comes from beyond the grave and his voice is the voice of one who has stood one step beyond the great finish line of life. This is what he said really matters: "Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust destroy, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

Tonight we are going to be talking about the movement from 'physical value' to 'spiritual value'. Let's watch the following clip from the movie ("**Big**" or "**Cast Away**").

N.B. Ask the following types of questions for "**Cast Away**":

1. What were Chuck's priorities before he was stranded?
2. There were three symbols used in the escape sequence that revealed Chuck's new priorities. The symbols were the Angel wings he painted on the metal sail, the volleyball he tied to the prow and the watch with the picture of Kelly that he clutched to his heart. What priorities do these symbols represent? (Answer: Wings=faith, Wilson=friendship, Watch=Love)
3. How is Chuck's life back in the world different now that he has these new priorities?

Ask the following types of questions for "**Big**":

1. What did the little boy wish for at the start of the movie?
2. Why did he want to be big?
3. What were some of the possessions and things that he acquired?
4. Did they make him happy in the long run?
5. What did he finally decide was really important?

Small Group Questions:

1. **If you had unlimited money, what would you go out and buy right now?**
2. **Read the following verses about money and physical possessions and summarize what you think they are teaching:**
3. **1 Samuel 2:7-8**
Psalm 37:7-9
Matthew 6:19-21
Mark 8:34-36
4. **In the video clip we just watched, what did the main character decide was really important in life?**
5. **What would you say are the three most important things in your life?**
6. **What does it mean to store up treasure in heaven?**
7. **What is one thing you could do this week to store up treasure in heaven?**
8. **Is it a sin to have a lot of money?**

No! The issue is not whether or not you have money, it is whether or not you LOVE and VALUE money. Jesus told the young ruler to sell his possessions not because possessions are bad (we are told Jesus' ministry was supported from the possessions of a few rich women) but because he loved them so much. If

you love money too much to be generous with it then it is bad. Priority and generosity are the issues not possession.

10. Read Matthew 6:24. Jesus says you have to choose your number one pursuit in life; God or money. What is your #1 pursuit right now?

Allow for honest and safe sharing. Make it clear that God is not looking for fans he is looking for committed followers. If you are not 100% ready to go then you are right to not make a half-hearted decision to follow Jesus.

Comments and Feedback

Leader Note: This is your place each week to record significant sharing or growth in the lives of your students for subsequent follow up. You can also use this space to provide feedback on the material. All suggestions are welcome.

Please see the following handout. You have permission to reproduce these handouts for your group.