

Sermon Based Small Group Guide for March 26, 2023 sermon:  
***"Worry-free Investing"***

**Warm up:**

1. People collect things they hope will become valuable someday (baseball cards, Beanie Baby stuffed animals, etc.). What is something you collected hoping that it would become a great investment? What happened to it?
2. Our use of the time we have, our use of our gifts and talents, and our material blessings are all resources we are called to "invest wisely". What is a GREAT investment that you made with one or more of your resources? What was the result?

**Digging deeper:** (20-30 minutes)

1. ASK: If an unbiased stranger was able to watch your life closely for a week, what would they say your highest priority was (what you love, give the most effort to)?  
Read Matthew 6:19-24. These verses focus on the same theme, asking us to consider where our focus, energy, and treasure are. In verses 19-21, Jesus warns us against laying up treasures on earth. According to these verses, why does Jesus warn us against laying up treasures on earth? Ever clean out the home of a relative that died and wonder why they kept all the "junk" they did? The physical things we've collected in this life will one day be relics tossed aside by others at best. When Jesus says we can "store up treasure in heaven", what is he talking about? What can we sent ahead?

2. ASK: What are some of the things that people do to try to make sure that their future is "secure" and that they feel "in control"?

Read Luke 12:13-21 and answer the following questions:

- In verse 15, Jesus says that you cannot accurately "measure" or assess someone's life based on how much they have. How does Jesus observation run against the grain of how our society measures people and their value?
- The man in the parable had fertile land and a great growing season. Anything wrong with that? He needed to build bigger barns to store his bumper-crop. Anything wrong with that?
- Verse 19 is the key. Read the verse again. What is his attitude about his abundance that dishonored God about resulted in judgment?
- Does verse 21 say that a rich person cannot have a "rich" relationship with God? What is the key to proper balance when it comes to the material and the spiritual?

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

People "vote" with a lot of things! They vote with their "feet" (they stay or leave). They vote with their energy (they pitch in or they sit back and watch). They vote with their money (they give or they withhold). During this season of transition at Olivet, people are "voting" and we need to be careful that our eyes and hearts are on God's kingdom and His glory. Please spend time praying for our church and specifically that we will stay active and engaged in the work God has called us to do together.