

# **SOUTHWEST: LIFE GROUP BIBLE STUDY**

**5-13-07 - "The Benevolent Heart"**

## **Suggested Ice Breaker:**

- How do our own needs sometimes hinder us from serving other's in their needs?
- When is this okay? When should this be challenged?

**Dig:** Read the following "Texts that Give Us Trouble"...

1. Matthew 19:21 - Why do you think "perfection" associated with anti-materialism so strongly by Jesus?
2. Luke 4:18 – This isn't merely about giving to the poor, but being in friendship with the poor in a way that you can communicate the gospel. Who are your poor friends?
3. Mark 12:41-44 – How is it that Jesus justifies his statement that the widow "put in more" than all the others? Is he trying to imply that to do less than what the widow did is ungodly? What is he trying to teach his disciples in this story?
4. Mark 14:7 – How often do you find yourself *wanting* to help the poor? How often *do* you help the poor? When you do, how do you help the poor?
5. Luke 12:32-34 – Remembering that "kingdom" means "kingship" or "rule", what is the connection between living in kingdom ways and giving up your possessions? Why is this so important to Jesus?
6. Luke 14:12-14 – Does this teaching of Jesus characterize modern Christianity? Should it? Can it?

## **Application:**

1. Is there anything exciting to you about the idea of Southwest becoming a place where the truly poor and needy of our city feel at home? Anything that makes you nervous about it?
2. Discuss this quote: "*Jesus never says to the poor, 'Come find the church,' but he says to those of us in the church, 'Go into the world and find the poor, hungry, homeless, imprisoned,' Jesus in his disguises.*"
3. Is it possible to admire and worship Jesus without doing what he did? What should we do about this?
4. We as the Southwest church are expressing a "benevolent heart" corporately in a way that represents Christ to the world positively. How can we each individually do the same thing?

**Lifegroup Prayer:** Pray that God increase our "Benevolence Program" and bless people through it financially and spiritually. And pray that God increase his "Benevolence Program" in each of our own hearts, giving us people to befriend and love in the name of Christ.