



INTRODUCTION

Welcome back for week three of our *Worth the Risk* series! Last week, after spending time examining the Great Commission and unpacking why people are worth the risk, we committed to intentionally investing in one person God placed in our lives.

With that in mind, reflect on the past week and answer the following questions. If you're with your small group, share your answers.

- How did you invest in your person this week? How did it go? If you didn't, what got in the way?
- Are your barriers to Kingdom opportunities getting clearer? How are you processing and navigating them with God?
- Did any new Kingdom opportunities arise? If so, how did you respond?

As you focused on people this past week, you may have been surprised by your knee-jerk reaction as Kingdom opportunities presented themselves. Whether you'd grade your investment as excellent, poor or somewhere in-between, keep noting your reactions and responses while inviting God to continue shaping and aligning your perspective with His.

DISCUSSION

This week, we're shifting our focus to how our property is worth the risk for Kingdom opportunities, but before we dive into the specifics, spend a few minutes answering the questions below. If you're with your small group, be sure to share your answers to help get to know one another a little better!

- What was your favorite board game growing up?
- How do you approach board games? Do you try to dominate, help everyone else win or are you just there for a good time?
- What memories do you have of Monopoly?

Regardless of your approach to or interest in board games, most of us have a memory of playing (or starting and never finishing) Monopoly. It may have been the first "grown-up" game we played. The money may have been fake and the properties just cute plastic houses, but we became attached quickly. And, when someone threatened or eventually overtook our property, it hurt.

As we focus on risking our property - money, house, land and possessions - for Kingdom opportunities, we have to address how quickly and deeply this category of our lives can become tied to our hearts in a way that protection becomes the guiding value.

As we learned in week one, God entrusts Kingdom opportunities to everyone who believes in Him. Whether you live in a dorm, rent an apartment or own a house, believe you have much or very little money or possessions, He's entrusted some kind of property to you, which means no matter what you have, it's something God gifted to you. It belongs to Him.

1. Have you ever been told everything you have belongs to God? Can you see how God has worked in your life circumstances to give you what you have?
2. How does this perspective shift change the perception of your property?

When we are regularly reminded of how God gifted us with everything we possess, it loosens our grip on it knowing it was really never ours to begin with.

3. Read Luke 12:13-21, the Parable of the Rich Fool.

- What does Jesus tell us to be on guard against?
- What does the man in the parable do with his excess crops? Why is he then considered foolish?
- Jesus tells us life is not made up of an abundance of possessions. Why? What do you believe life is made up of instead?

In the United States, what we own can mean everything - security, status, comfort, satisfaction, you name it. However, Jesus teaches life is more important than material things. The Rich Fool believed he would have an easy life because he had everything he could possibly want or need, but Jesus shares a humbling irony in the parable when the man dies that same night and all his possessions pass to someone else. Jesus makes it clear we cannot place our value and security in our property because it's not an investment that will last (Matthew 6:19-21).

4. Ask yourself:

- Are you attempting to store up your property in the pursuit of comfort or "the good life"? Why?
- Are you chasing the same desires of the rich fool: to "take life easy; eat, drink and be merry"? Why?
- How does the Parable of the Rich Fool challenge this motivation?

Jesus isn't against owning property or building wealth, but if we're only utilizing it for our comfort or personal well-being, we'll miss the Kingdom opportunities God places in front of us.

So, what shall we do instead?

- Recognize everything you own is a gift from God. It's His to do with as He pleases.
- Place yourself in positions where you can grow your gratitude of God's generosity. As you recognize more of God's gifts to you, your gratitude will motivate and inspire generosity toward others.
- Recognize you can't take your property with you. Knowing your property is temporary can motivate you to take action now.

In the same way we looked at people in our Little Iowa last week, start with simple, achievable steps in taking Kingdom-minded risks in regards to your property. You could open your home to friends and family more frequently, lend a spare bedroom to those in need, use your hobbies to build community, begin tithing or increase your giving to church or community organizations. Survey the property God has blessed you with and begin imagining what God could do with it when you partner it with His Kingdom opportunities.

5. What are the first steps you can take in investing your property toward a Kingdom opportunity? What specific ideas do you have? What's the best that could happen?

PRAYER

Ask God to open your mind, heart and spirit to the needs of your Little Iowa. Pray that you would grow in your sense of the emotional, spiritual and physical needs of others around you so you can begin investing your property toward them. Pray for God to meet you in that effort and guide your risk-taking. If you're with your small group, write down the ideas, dreams and desires that have been shared and pray for them this week.

Don't miss next week as we look at why our platform is worth the risk!