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“Investing in the Future” Luke 18

Getting Started

Take a moment to answer one or more of the following questions that have to do with your future:

- If you could ask God to answer one question about the future, what would you ask him?
- If you could plan your future, what character quality would you like to be known for in the decades to come?
- If you could solidify the future of your children, what would you like their lives to look like?

Going Deeper

Read [Luke 18: 1-14](#) and discuss what you believe to be the message Jesus is trying to convey in these stories.

On Sunday Jilane mentioned that someone who invests in the future chooses to live humbly. Take a moment to talk about the following questions regarding humility.

- Which people, the proud or the humble, do you think our society most values?
- Which people, the proud or the humble, are you most naturally drawn to?
- Why do you think humility is such a high value to Jesus?

On Sunday Jilane made this comment, ***“We are called to live for an audience of ONE, not to compare ourselves to others but rather to compare ourselves to the holiness of God”***

What is the connection between humility and comparison?

What is the connection between being judgmental and humility?

Someone who invests in the future is also someone who seeks justice. Read and discuss the following statistics on injustice:

POVERTY is an injustice

- Almost half the world lives on less than \$2.50 a day.
- At least 80% of humanity live on less than \$10 a day.

HUMAN SLAVERY is an injustice

- There are more slaves today than at any time in human history.
- It is estimated that 2 children per minute are trafficked for sexual exploitation.

CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTS is an injustice

- It is estimated that 153 million children worldwide, have lost one or both parents (UNICEF).
- HIV/AIDS has orphaned 17.9 million children, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia (UNICEF).

STARVATION is an injustice

- Over 1 billion children suffer from at least one form of severe deprivation of basic needs such as water, food, and sanitation (SOS).

VIOLENCE AND WAR is an injustice

- Over 1 billion children live in countries affected by armed conflict (UNICEF).

LACK OF EDUCATION is an injustice

- 67 million children of primary school age do not go to school (UNESCO).

IN THE USA

- There are over 120,000 orphans in America, while another 400,000 children live without permanent families (HHS; AFCARS).
- 27,000 children age out of the system every year (AFCARS).
- Almost 25% of youth aging out did not have a high school diploma or GED (University of Chicago).

What do you think our role as a church is in fighting against injustice?

What do you think our role is as individuals to fight against injustice?

When you hear the statement, "I'm investing in the future" what do you typically assume the person is talking about?

What kind of future investments are you making that you think are most in line with Jesus words in Luke 18?

What kind of future investments do we make very important, yet Jesus would say they are not important?

A good place to start in fighting injustice is prayer.
 Prayer that God will show you where to join the fight
 Prayer that God will fight the battles of injustice throughout the world
 Prayer that as believers we would not be content to stay on the sidelines and watch

Take a moment to pray as a group about injustice throughout the world.