



## Part 1: Possessions

### APPETIZER: Re:Purpose

- The average home in North America has 300,000 items. (LA Times)
- The average home has tripled in size in the last 50 years. (NPR)
- 1/10 homes rents extra off-site storage. (New York Times Magazine)
- 25 % of all homes do not have room in their garage to park their car(s). (US Department of Energy)
- In Britain, the average child owns 238 toys, and plays with only 12 daily. (The Telegraph)
- Most North American homes have more TVs than people, and they are on for over 8 hours per day. (USA Today)
- Shopping malls outnumber high schools and 93% of teenage girls rank shopping as their favourite pastime. (Affluenza)
- Over the course of our lifetime, we will spend a total of 153 days looking for misplaced items. (The Daily Mail)

### DINE IN: The Man Who Had Too Much

Luke 18:18-27

Matthew 19:16-26 // Mark 10:17-27

*“Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.”*

PREMISE 1: Jesus is a good teacher.  
PREMISE 2: Only God is good.  
CONCLUSION: Therefore, Jesus isn't good.  
Or, Jesus is God.

### TAKE OUT: Will You Follow Jesus?

Proverbs 18:10-12  
Luke 18:28-30

### HOMEWORK: The 30 Day Minimalism Game!

Find a friend or family member: someone who's willing to get rid of their excess stuff. For one month, each of you must get rid of one thing on the first day. On the second, two things. Three items on the third. So forth, and so on. Anything can go! Clothes, furniture, electronics, tools, decorations, etc. Put them aside for “rePurpose” on April 23/30, or if you can't wait until then, donate them to a charity sooner.

Whatever you do, each material possession must be set aside—and out of your life—by midnight each day. It's an easy game at first. However, it starts getting challenging by week two when you're both jettisoning more than a dozen items each day. Whoever can keep it going the longest wins; you both win if you can make it all month. Bonus points if you play with more than two people.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Watch the “Minimalism” documentary (on Netflix).

### NEXT WEEK: < = > Part 2: Time

Next week we conclude this two-part miniseries with a focus on our overburdened schedules. Then in two weeks we begin a series on our Anabaptist story called “The Radical Reformation.”

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what ideas stood out to you or any questions that remain.

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read our key text, **Luke 18:18-27**.
  - a. What verse, word, or idea stands out to you? Why?
  - b. Matthew, Mark, and Luke each tell the story with slightly different details. (Feel free to compare!) What can this tell us about the nature of the four gospels?
  - c. So, Jesus says God is good. That's good news. But ONLY God is good – is that good news? If only God is good, how can we, who apparently are not good, go to heaven? Talk about the gospel.
  - d. Why did Jesus start his response with the commandments? Especially in light of **Romans 3:20, 28**?
  - e. Compare the ruler's response in **verse 21** with what Jesus teaches just before in **verses 9-14**. Is this man's claim to perfect obedience a good sign? Have you had similar – "But I'm a good person!" – conversations with people?
  - f. Recall the thorny ground in the parable of the sower – the growing plants are choked to death by "the worries and riches and pleasures of life" (**Luke 8:14**). Why is the privilege of owning lots of things a potential spiritual hindrance? Think of examples from this past week.
  - g. Review **verses 9-17**. How does the context of this story help us understand it?
  - h. Are you doing your homework?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. Use your regular huddle questions to help you talk about your lives and prepare you to pray for one another.

*March 12/March 19, 2017 // @bruxy*

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## Quotes

Welcome to our new two-part mini-series on simplicity. Next week we will talk about simplifying our schedules. Today we discuss simplifying our possessions.

Today's message will focus on the story of the rich young ruler, as told in Matthew 19, Mark 10, and Luke 18...

A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. Now, if you want to enter into eternal life, keep the commandments."

"Which ones?" asked the man.

Jesus replied, "You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'"

All these I have kept since I was a boy," said the young man.

When Jesus heard this, he looked at the man and loved him. Then he said to him, "You still lack one thing. If you want to be complete, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

When the man heard this, he became very sad, because he had many possessions.

Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

As the man walked away, the disciples asked, "Who then can be saved?"

Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."