

## “Can I have it all?”

What does it mean to have it “all”?

### The Bible’s definition of the most important “all”

Romans 8v16-25, *“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – **heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, provided that we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing to the **glory** that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain **the freedom of the glory of the children of God**. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”*

### What do we have today?

Romans 8v31-37 *“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, **how will he not also with him graciously give us all things**? Who shall bring an charge against God’s elect? Is it God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’”*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”*

## **What should our priorities be so that we inherit the eternal “all”?**

Jesus had some important things to say about how we live now, in light of the eternal all that God offers. So IN GROUPS we are going to look up some of his sayings and think about how they help us live now.

Mark 8v34-38

1. What does Jesus say a person must do to save her life and her soul?
2. What warning does he give about focussing on the wrong things and not taking care of this step?

Luke 12v13-21

3. How might we be tempted to think the rich man in the parable had it “all”?
4. What is God’s perspective on the rich man?
5. What should we learn from this?

Luke 16v25-28

6. Who is the rich man concerned for, now that he has the perspective from beyond the grave?
7. What does this teach us about what our priorities for our families (and friends) should be?

What have we learned about what is most important? What have we learned about what it might cost us to invest in having the eternal “all”?

**How should I think about what I have now so that I stay focussed on the eternal “all”?**

Brainstorm for a couple of minutes about the things we have in our lives – what makes demands on our time, resources and attention?

Pick one of these things and then answer the following questions – take 3 or 4 minutes to do this on your own and then discuss your thoughts with the group:

1. How can this thing or person help or hinder me to stay focussed on the eternal “all”?
2. What should be my ambitions for this thing or person?
3. How should I treat this thing or person in order to help others to gain the eternal “all”?

**What if I don't have something I want now?**

*Envy*

*Worry*

*Sadness*

**REFLECTION & PRAYER**

For a couple of minutes on your own, think of:

- one thing you have learned from thinking about the eternal all and how it should shape life now;
- something good that you already have and want to thank God for;
- something you want but don't have yet and want to pray about.

Please share any of these that you would like to with the group, perhaps particularly learnings from today that don't feel too personal to share, and then please take a few minutes to pray for each other.