

# "When Times Are Tough"

## We Find Out Who We Really Are, Pt. 3

Matthew 15:1-20

### Growth Group Questions

November 6, 2011

1. This past week did you have any new insight or experience with this concept: "We may never know what is inside our hearts until pressure is applied."
2. If there are questions from the last two weeks you didn't cover, feel free to go back to them.
3. What did you think about "Sheran from Pittsburgh's" testimony? Did you find yourself thinking fearful thoughts about your friends and/or family? What do those thoughts reveal about your theology?
4. What lesson did you learn from Trent and Elijah Smith's duet?
5. Are you surprised when in tough/tempting times your "practice" comes out? Should that really surprise you? Why or why not?
6. Read Philippians 4:9. What connection do you see between "practicing godliness" and "peace"? [
7. Can you think of an area of your "practice" where God would say to you, "Are you still so dull?" What are the benefits of practicing the opposite of what God wants you to practice? (Reference verses: Matt. 15:16; Acts 10: 14; Gal. 2:11-13)
8. Make a commitment to each other as a group to practice godly habits for a month. For instance: read a chapter of Proverbs every day for a month.... pray for each member of your GG every morning for a month. Do you think it might be a good idea to practice these things for the rest of your lives??
9. Challenge each other to strategically place the truths of God in places you frequent in your office at work, your school (if allowed) or your home. You might even want to make some Christmas gifts for each other along these lines. [cf. Deut 6:5-9]
10. Read II Tim. 2:13. How might this truth encourage you as you try to establish new godly habits?
11. Read Matt. 7:24-27. From this scripture, what connection is there between godly practice and the ability to withstand the storms of life?
12. If you are fearful of tough times, share "why"? What comfort can be taken from Psalms 16:8? What tough times did King David, the writer of this Psalms go through? Do you share his conviction about tough times i.e. "I will not be shaken"?
13. From last week and this week: Research shows that in their pursuit of happiness the Boomer Generation has experienced a tenfold increase in depression when compared to the previous generation. What does this tell you? What hope is there for the next generations if we don't get back to having hearts sold out to Jesus?



Dr. Larry G. Shelton • • • • • Contemporary Service

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