



Hill Cliffe Study Guide
Sunday 1 October 2023
Trading our Rubbish for Abundant Life

1. What impacted you most from the Sunday sermon?

A Little Background on our relationship with plastic rubbish from the Tearfund Sermon Notes...

“For plastic waste, less than half of it is recycled in the UK and the majority of it is exported to other countries for recycling because we don’t have capacity in the UK to deal with the huge volume of waste we generate. Every minute we throw out enough plastic to fill four double-decker buses! This system is broken. The rapid increase in plastic production is making the situation worse. What lies behind this problem is consumerism. Because of companies’ constant desire to make more profits, we live with a pattern of throwing goods away and buying new ones, and the poorest communities are bearing the cost. Poverty is not God’s plan. You are. And so, seeing these injustices should prompt us to act.”

2. How do you react to these statements?

From the Tearfund Sermon Notes,,, *“It’s not news to you that we live in a consumer society. Consumption in itself isn’t bad: we were created by God to consume. We need to eat and drink and buy clothes: consumption is part of our humanity and a means to meet our basic needs. Jesus guides us as to what our relationship with consumption should look like.”*

3. What does our society in the UK teach us and our children about how we should relate to our wealth and possessions?
4. In our society in the UK, how do our possessions define our sense of security and identity?

Please read Matthew 19.16-22 & Matthew 6.19-34

5. How does Jesus’ teaching about handling our wealth and possessions contrast with that of our society in the UK?
6. Where are we then to find our sense of security and identity? How does this speak to you?
7. **Please read John 10.7-10** and reflect on the nature of loving sacrifice at the heart of our Christian identity as followers of Jesus. How might this apply to our relationship with our wealth and possessions generally?

From the Tearfund Sermon Notes... *“Just like the rich young man, our actions are an important part of our response to follow Christ and are a practical way to express our worship. Just as Moses and the prophets called on rulers to end injustice in their nations, we have an opportunity to come together to lift our voices and call for transformation. During 2023 and 2024, nearly 200 governments are meeting to develop the first-ever ‘plastics treaty’, an international agreement on plastic pollution. It’s a moment where our world is coming together and saying, ‘You know what, we tried single-use plastics and it isn’t working for billions of people. What can we do differently? How can we re-imagine our future?’ Now, Christians in more than ten countries and six continents are joining together as part of Tearfund’s Rubbish Campaign to contribute a vision for a more abundant life.”*

Let’s consider our response to act <https://www.tearfund.org/forms/rubbish-campaign-petition>