



A  
*CREATIVE*  
MINORITY

SERMON SERIES



MORNINGS  
+ NIGHTS

## THE THIRD CHARACTERISTIC OF A CREATIVE MINORITY – A DISTINCT MORAL VISION

PRAY TOGETHER: (5 MINUTES)

Gather together as a community in a comfortable setting (around a table, on the couch, the floor of a living room, etc.). Have somebody lead a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your time together

READ THIS KEY SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 6:19-24:

<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>22</sup> "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy,<sup>[c]</sup> your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eyes are unhealthy,<sup>[c]</sup> your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

<sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

### Question for reflection:

1. If you were to do a "life-audit" on where you spend your money, time and energy – what would this tell us about your priorities and where your heart is?

READ THESE KEY QUOTES FROM THE BOOK *A CREATIVE MINORITY*:

"Far too often, Christians spend time working on the answer for a question people are simply not asking because our lives look identical to those around us. A Creative Minority displays reordered hearts and lives that invite the question." (p.35)

"We must live in the kingdom of God in such a way that it provokes questions for which the Gospel is the answer." - Lesslie Newbigin (quoted on p.36)

### Question for reflection:

2. Why are we so tempted to live the same way as everyone around us?

3. How to *middle class values* create blind spots when it comes to living differently as Christians?

#### SUMMARY OF THIS WEEK'S TEACHING ON *ETHICS* – A *DISTINCT MORAL VISION*:

We are not just called to believe certain things; we are called to live out a way of life that is different. It is the way of life Jesus defines for us in the Sermon on the Mount. This life is determined by the story we are living in. It comes from having 'reordered hearts' that are being changed by Jesus and the gospel story of the kingdom of God. It will largely be shown by how we respond to the main idols of our age. These are the good gifts of God that have been distorted by pagan society – sex, money and power. An alternative approach to these will set us apart from the prevailing culture while also beginning to answer the deepest longings of our generation. A chaste approach to sex, a selfless use of power, and a generosity with money point to a distinct moral vision. This combination of faithfulness, servanthood and generosity will provoke questions from the culture around us to which the gospel is the answer. We must live in such a way that provokes such questions from those around us.

#### Final Question for Reflection:

4. What might a different approach to sex, money and power look like in practice?