

Sermon Notes
June 25, 2017
James 5:1-6

Some facts:

3 richest people in the world > sum of 47 smallest countries
50 richest = 3.5 billion poorest (half the population)
Richest 1% own half the worlds wealth

1 Corinthians 3:16 ESV

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1 Timothy 6:10 ESV

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

In the dawn of this new phase in redemptive history, no teachers (including Jesus) in the New Testament ever promise material wealth as a reward for obedience.

David Platt

5 uses for money:

1. Pay taxes
2. Pay employees a fair wage
3. Provide for family
4. Support God's work on earth
5. Care for those in need

Proverbs 30:8 ESV

8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me,

Mark 10:21 NLT

21 Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Key question when it comes to money:

What is God calling me to do with my resources as I follow him?

2 Corinthians 8:13-15 NLT

13 Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. 14 Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. 15 As the Scriptures say, "Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough."

A constant thread in Scripture is that we are not to take more than we need while others have less than they need, a radical critique of the world we live in. The early Christians went so far as to say that if a

Christian has more than they need while their neighbor is in need, the Christian is a thief. "If we have two coats we have stolen one."

Luke 3:11 ESV

11 And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."

This passage begs the question, am I willing to live a life that is content with food and clothing, having the basic necessities of my life provided for? Or do I want more? Do I want a bigger house or a nicer car or better clothes? Do I want to indulge in more and more luxuries in my life? After all, what's wrong with luxuries? This is a key question, and if we are not careful in how we answer it, we will miss the point of what God desires to teach us about our possessions. We don't need to sell or give away nice clothes, nice cars, nice houses, or surplus possessions because they are inherently bad. As we have seen, wealth and possessions are not inherently evil; they are good in and of themselves. So we don't sell them or give them away because they are sinful. Then why do we sell them or give them away? We sell them and give them away because Christ in us compels us to care for the needy around us.

Why not begin operating under the idea that God has given us excess, not so we could have more, but so we could give more?

2 Corinthians 8:9 ESV

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.