



Sermon Notes

May 4, 2008
Tim Strickland

Where Your Treasure Is... #12
How Much is Enough?
Various Passages

Proverbs 30:7-9

Two things I ask of you;
deny them not to me before I die:
[8] Remove far from me falsehood and lying;
give me neither poverty nor riches;
feed me with the food that is needful for me,
[9] lest I be full and deny you
and say, "Who is the Lord?"
or lest I be poor and steal
and profane the name of my God.

Proverbs 28:19

Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,
but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

Eccles. 5:10-20 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. [11] When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? [12] Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

Luke 12:15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Mark 4:18-19 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, [19] but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

Luke 14:33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Introduction

Today: "How Much is Enough?", Message #12 in "Where Your Treasure Is", a series about God, money & you

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1. Two errors of extreme when seeking God's will for your lifestyle

- a. It is God's will for you to be rich!
 - You shall be blessed! – **Deut. 28:3, 6, 13**
[3] Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.
[13] And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down,
 - God may materially bless some people abundantly, but it is not His will for everyone to be rich
 - Biblical examples of poor people
 - Jesus – 2 Cor. 8:9, Paul – 1 Cor. 6:10, Church of Smyrna – Rev. 2:9
- b. It is God's will for you to be poor!
 - Rich Young Ruler – **Luke 18:22**
When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."
 - God may call some people to give away everything, but it is not His will for everyone to be poor
 - Biblical examples of rich people
 - Abraham – Gen. 13:2, Solomon – 2 Chron. 9:22, Joseph of Arimathea – Mt. 27:57
- c. **Conclusion:** Neither poverty nor riches - **Proverbs 30:8b-9**
*give me neither poverty nor riches;
feed me with the food that is needful for me,
[9] lest I be full and deny you
and say, "Who is the Lord?"
or lest I be poor and steal
and profane the name of my God.*

2. Two realities of following God's principles for living

- a. If you follow Biblical principles about money, you will tend to be better off financially than those who do not.
 - **Righteousness** – Proverbs 3:33
 - **Integrity** – Proverbs 10:9
 - **Giving to God first** – Proverbs 3:9-10
 - **Generosity** – Proverbs 11:24
 - **Hard Work** – Proverbs 12:27
 - **Avoiding Debt** – Proverbs 22:7
 - **Summary: You reap what you sow** – Galatians 6:7

- b. If you follow Biblical principles of self-sacrifice and look towards heavenly reward you will tend to give up wealth for the cause of Christ
- **2 Cor. 8:9** *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.*
 - **Luke 14:33** *So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.*
 - **Matthew 6:19-21** *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, [20] but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

3. How much is enough?

- a. Seeing the Face of Jesus brings ultimate joy & satisfaction!
- **2 Corinthians 4:6-7** *⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.*
 - **Psalms 17:15**
*As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;
when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.*
- b. Because our source of satisfaction is different than the world's, our lifestyles should be different
- Our focus is not on our own self-indulgence, but on bringing glory to God
- c. We must sacrifice all that the world has to offer for the sake of God's great work to be done in this life, and for the sake of great reward in the life to come. Our lifestyle should reflect this way of thinking.
- Live strategically for the Lord with a military/pilgrim mindset
 - Heb. 11:8-16, 24-26 esp. vv10, 13, 26, 2 Tim. 2:3-4
 - Budget to live a reasonable lifestyle below your income and give the excess away to the Lord's work (church, missions, the poor, generosity to others, etc...)
 - Raise your standard of giving, not your standard of living
 - Make lifestyle decisions that reflect a kingdom mindset
 - Note that even soldiers need recreational leave
 - Everyone's lifestyle will not be the same. Judge yourself regarding your lifestyle. Do not judge others regarding theirs.

Our Response

1. Take a careful look at your lifestyle. Are you seeking to grow rich? Or are you seeking to grow God's kingdom?

Proverbs 23:4-5 *Do not toil to acquire wealth;
be discerning enough to desist.*

*[5] When your eyes light on it, it is gone,
for suddenly it sprouts wings,
flying like an eagle toward heaven.*

2. Pray about how God would have you live. Ask Him to give you courage to live differently than the world, with a future reward, kingdom mindset. Pray that your satisfaction would be found solely in Him.

Psalms 37:4-5 *Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

*[5] Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.*

Questions for Application

1. Have you ever gone to an extreme of thinking God wants everyone to be only rich or only poor? Do you know anyone who has done either of these? Discuss.
2. Is there anything wrong with being rich? Is there anything wrong with being poor? Read Prov 30:7-9 and discuss the challenges of both.
3. How can you determine a lifestyle that is honouring to the Lord?
4. Are there changes that you need to make in your lifestyle? Are you keeping more for yourself than you should? (This is a personal question and I will leave it to your discretion how you discuss this in small groups).
5. Pray together for one another that the Lord would help you to live a lifestyle that honours Him.

Questions, Comments? - inthebeginning@look.ca

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim



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