

## Sermon Notes / Giving is a remedy

Big idea - Giving is a remedy

A. Money becomes an unsatisfying pit.

**Ecclesiastes 5:10** He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.

B. Money can hinder your ability to hear God. It's a distraction

**Matthew 13:22:** "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."

C. Money can lead you away from your first love

**1 Timothy 6.8-10:** "If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 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.

**Matthew 6.24:** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

*Yet I dare say that, for Americans, greed is to sin what North Dakota is to U.S. states — it's easy to forget that it exists. We confess lust, anger, maybe pride, maybe self-righteousness. But greed? It's whitewashed. It's camouflaged. We use words like "lifestyle" or "ambition" or "the American dream." - Jonathan leemen*

**Matthew 19:16** And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" 17 And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." 18 He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, 19 Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 20 The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the

poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” 22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

**I Timothy 6.18** — Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

**Hebrews 13:5** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

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**The action:**

- Give your life to Jesus
- Make a budget
- Establish a practice of giving
- Give when it's hard

*I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc, is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them. –C.S.*

Lewis

**Proverbs 11.24-25** — One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

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## Study Guide / Giving is a remedy

What were your thoughts about money before the sermon?

Read:

**Ecclesiastes 5:10, Matthew 13:22, and 1 Timothy 6:8-10.**

How do these three warnings about money make you feel?

What are your current practices of giving?

What are some obstacles to creating a practice of giving?

Why would someone want to establish a practice of giving?

What is one way you could grow in giving this month?