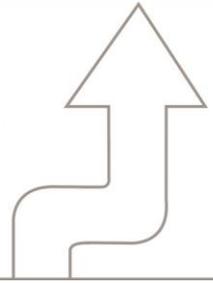


SHIFT

the life we are meant to live



February 28th, 2016

Living Without Avarice

1. REJECT THE FALSE NARRATIVE:

HAPPINESS: THE THINGS MONEY CAN BUY

"Money answers everything!" - Ecclesiastes 10:10

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 pang.

– 1 Timothy 6:10 ESV

He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income – Ecclesiastes 5:10 ESV

2. EMBRACE THE JESUS NARRATIVE:

HAPPINESS: KINGDOM ECONOMICS

"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. ²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." - Matthew 6:19-24 ESV

HOW JESUS SEES YOUR MONEY

A. Two Treasures: Choose People Over Possessions

The Lesson in Luke 16:9, 11 (NLT) – Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home!... and if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?

1 Timothy 6:6-10

B. Two Eyes: Be Generous Instead of Greedy

“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have! – Matthew 6:22-23 MSG

Psalm 37:21; Proverbs 19:17

You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way. – 2 Corinthians 9:11 ESV

C. Two Masters: Serve God; Use Money

Luke 16:14

THE PRICELESS GIFT MONEY CANNOT BUY

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. – Isaiah 55:1-2 ESV

I Will Shift by...

- Memorizing [2 Corinthians 9:11](#).
- Not allowing the things money can buy to control me.
- Becoming more people-focused and open-hearted.
- Giving my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

WALK THE TALK

A Growth Group Guide

1. What events in your life help establish the way you see money and wealth? What did you buy that was so precious to you at the time but lost its value quicker than you ever thought?
2. Review Matthew 6:19-24 and review the section “How Jesus Sees Your Money.” Now:
 - a. Which of the three points grabbed you the most?
 - b. Has money ever become a god to you?
 - c. As a group, what are some of the ways you can brainstorm to practice “kingdom economics”?
3. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10 aloud to group.
 - a. What strikes you about this passage?
 - b. What soul-training exercises have helped you develop the inner reality of simplicity and contentment?
 - c. What evidence from your life do you have that the desire to be rich leads to temptation and problems?
4. How would you rate yourself in the area of simplicity?
5. If you plan to take the deaccumulation challenge this week for your Soul Training exercise, answer the following questions (or, if you have already done this, simply answer the questions in the past tense):
 - a. What do you think would challenge you the most?
 - b. How do you think you will feel after you give an item away?
 - c. What do you think you will learn about God and yourself when you do?

SOUL TRAINING – DEACCUMULATION

A Personal Transformation Exercise

The Principle:

The Lenten season is usually a time when people give *up* things (coffee, chocolate, TV, etc.) for several weeks. Giving up things helps us to simplify and reduce the amount of *stuff* that draws on our time, focus, money, etc. By getting rid of these kinds of things it allows us to focus more on stuff that matters like family, friends, church, personal devotions, etc.

This principle of simplifying helps to deal with the heart issues of greed and materialism. We can learn to be happy with the important things in life by getting rid of stuff that is more temporary and/or does not add any value to our lives. God tells us in His Word to serve Him and Him alone. It's the first of the ten commandments that says we are to serve God and have no other idols. This does not mean that we are not allowed to own things, just that we need to be careful with where we are trying to find fulfillment and happiness.

The Plan:

The plan this week is to try to give things *away*. Try to find five things that would be of some value to someone else. We are not talking about giving away our old junk! It has to be something in good condition that would bless someone else. If at all possible, give these possessions to someone you know. Be careful though, because some people are not comfortable with accepting unsolicited gifts – especially used ones. Don't give someone your old clothes or a pair of decent shoes you don't need. Your friend will not want this strange handout and may feel you are being condescending. Instead, think about situations like this:

- Say you have three guitars and you know someone wants to learn to play but does not have one. Give one of yours away.
- Perhaps your child has a bunch of toys that they have just gotten for Christmas or a birthday. Do they need or play with everything they have been given?

The key this week is to find things that your friend would appreciate. Perhaps put yourselves in their shoes. If you were in their place, what is something you'd want to receive?