

Announcements

Next week we will be at East Cobb Middle School at 10am! The address is 825 Terrell Mill Rd, Marietta, GA 30067. We hope to see you there!

As we transition to East Cobb Middle School we need your help in Image Kids and First Impressions. You can sign up to serve at imageatl.com/serve.

Prayer Suggestions

Prayer considerations

Sunday was World Refugee Day. Pray for those who have sought homes in other countries because they could not find safety, work, food, homes, etc for themselves or their families. Pray that we will be welcoming and supportive to our refugee neighbors. Pray for the governments and people of countries who house and accept refugees, that they will be welcoming and just. Pray for the governments of the countries people are leaving, that they will seek peace and justice for their citizens. Pray for peace, an end to hunger and poverty, and an end to oppression around the world so people are not forced from their homes. Ask God to give you relationships with people in your community who are refugees.

For more information on refugees, check out these organizations:

[Preemptive Love Coalition](#)

[We Welcome Refugees](#)

[World Relief](#)

[UNHCR](#)

[International Rescue Committee](#)

[Refugee Council USA](#)

[RAICES](#)

Joshua Project Unreached Peoples: <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday>

Family Time

Family Time is an intentional space where we live out the model we see in Acts 2:42. We want to be devoted to the Word together, break bread, fellowship, and pray. It's also a place where we practice hospitality. We want this time to foster both spiritual and relational growth moving the group from acquaintances and friends to family. Family Time begins with conversations around a meal, followed by a discussion about Sunday's sermon.

Sermon Discussion (30-40 min)

Title: Be Rich Towards God

Series: Inverted Kingdom

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

Other Scripture/Cross-References

Mentioned in the sermon:

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.

Proverbs (throughout the book, discussions on not being lazy; some examples below)

6:6; 6:9-12; 10:4-5; 12:11; 12:24; 13:4; 14:23; 19:15; 20:4; 24:30-34; 26:15

Malachi 3:10 Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way," says the Lord of Armies. "See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.

Acts 4:32-37 Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Main Points

Jesus is always confronting seemingly moral external positions with actual heart positions.

Observations about wealth:

1. There is nothing inherently wrong with being rich
 - a. The parable is not about the fact that he was rich, but how he views his riches and what he does with them
 - b. The parable is talking to all of us, not only those we consider to be rich
2. There is nothing wrong with your job bringing prosperity
 - a. We want to strive for excellence in the workplace, while realizing that is not the most important thing

The rich man was wrong because he believed that true life was found in leveraging his riches for himself, to create comfort, security, and abundance. His personal worth was wrapped up in his net worth.

Money will entice you into thinking that if you have it, it will preserve your life. There is only one way to preserve your life, only one way to find hope, security, and abundance -- it is in the riches that God offers you through Christ.

We respond to Jesus by being rich toward God and not toward ourselves.

Being rich toward God means counting God as greater riches than anything on earth. It means using earthly riches to show how much you value God.

3 types of money mindsets (taken from God and Money):

Spender -- money's greatest value is adding enjoyment today

Saver -- money's greatest value is security for tomorrow

Servant -- someone who sees money as a temporary gift from God that's to be used as a tool

Practical Application Places

1. Giving
 - a. Increases our dependence on God
 - b. Jesus doesn't want money out of your wallet. He wants idols out of your heart.
 - c. More about your heart than the amount of money given
2. Leveraging your house/apartment
3. Providing meals
4. Meeting needs within the church
 - a. What do you have that someone else might need?
 - b. Giving above your regular tithe to meet needs
5. Leveraging your job for missional means
 - a. Offering internships
 - b. Being a second chance job facility (offering jobs to returning citizens coming out of prison)
 - c. Taking a job in specific locations so you can be intentional with where you live

Quotes

CS Lewis "Prosperity knits a man to the world. He feels that he is finding his place in it, while really it is finding its place in him."

John Piper "Being rich towards God is the opposite of treating the self as though it were made for things and not for God."

Pastor Mike

Religious morality makes everything about us, but a new God-given heart makes it all about him

We fail to see the great riches of God because we don't understand our debt.

What you long for in the pursuit of riches and prosperity but can never find can be found abundantly in Christ.

When we get defensive, most often it is a road to an idol in our hearts.

Whatever barns you build should be used to show God is your greatest treasure

Money is a root idol that fuels so many other idols in our lives.

Questions

1. What challenged you? What were your takeaways? What encouraged or convicted you?
2. What questions do you have?
3. What is your immediate reaction when people start talking about money? Why?
4. In listening to the message, where did you get defensive? What idols hide behind that defensiveness?
5. Pastor Mike said that "money is a root idol that fuels other idols in our lives." What idols does money fuel in your life? What does the way you spend money reveal about what your heart is tied to?
6. Do you see Jesus for who He is, or do you see Him for what He can do for you? (Similarly, do you view God as simply a means to an end?)
7. How much time do you spend praying about what you want vs what others need?
8. Are you a spender, saver, or servant? How do you know?
9. Are you leveraging your riches? How? If not, why not?
10. Which one of the practical applications will you begin taking steps of obedience in?

Other Resources

Used in the sermon:

Chris Pappalardo, *The Best Gift for Dad this Father's Day? Diaper Duty*, Christianity Today, 2018.

John Piper sermon, *Let's Be Right Toward God*, Jan 8 2012

JD Greear sermon, *Worth It*, First Series #2, November 21, 2018

John Cortines & Gregory Baumer, *God and Money*, 2016

JD Greear sermon, *Live as if Jesus Rules and Eternity is Real*

Other Resources on Money & Work:

Tommy Brown, Seven Money Types

Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavor

Henri Nouwen, A Spirituality of Fundraising

Jack Alexander, The God Guarantee

Michael Rhodes & Robby Holt, Practicing the King's Economy

[The Chalmers Center](#)

[The Institute for Faith, Work, and Economics](#)

Discipleship Groups

Discipleship Groups are where our community groups divide into gender-specific groups for a time of more intentional discussion and connection. This creates a safer and more intimate space to open up our hearts in order to grow deeper in the gospel. This time begins with a discussion about Sunday's sermon and then transitions to a time of transparency where we are honest about where we are relationally, personally, missionally, and spiritually.

Sermon Discussion (30-40 min)

See Sermon Discussion Notes above.

RPMS (30-45 min)

R	How are you doing RELATIONALLY ? (friends, coworkers, neighbors, spouses, family -- also, how are you building relationships with people different from you or on the margins?)
P	How are you doing PERSONALLY ? (emotionally, mentally, physically, financially, etc.)
M	How are you doing MISSIONALLY ? (what you're doing daily to be on mission, how you're engaging people, etc)
S	How are you doing SPIRITUALLY ? (time with God, in Scripture, what you're learning, who you're learning from, memorization, etc.)

Prayer (10-15 min)

