



Message Series Guide

The Pursuit of Happiness

Part 3 – Wealth

Ecclesiastes 5:8

We all know that we can't make through day to day life without using money. Yet, when we look at the pages of the Gospels, Jesus talks about money more than any other subject. Why is that? Jesus is not calling His people to retreat or withdraw from the market, banks, or using currency. Rather Jesus is warning us how easily the pursuit of money and wealth can ensnare us into addiction and slavery. However, some of us still probably think just a "little more wealth" would go a long way. King Solomon was the richest man in history. He had a lot to say in his poetic reflections on the emptiness of wealth.

READ:

Ecclesiastes 5 · Matthew 6:24 · Hebrews 13:5 · Proverbs 13:22 · Philippians 4:19 ·

- Take 1 Minute as a group to sit in silence with The Holy Spirit and bring yourself to focus on what He might have for group time.
- Solomon says that pursuing wealth is grasping the wind. What does this word picture mean in your opinion?
- Read Proverbs 13:22 - Does this verse indicate that wealth is always secure?
- Philippians 4:19 says God is our supplier. If we were to really believe that how would it change the way we work and spend?
- Solomon was the richest man in history. Do some research on how his wealth stacked up compared to historic figures and kingdoms.
- If you own a smart phone or a car, you are wealthier than 95% of the human population on planet earth. How should we consider steward this blessing from God?

DISCUSS:

- Share one instance where you were the recipient of biblical generosity, and what that meant to you.
- If God is our provider then we should trust his provision is abundant. After all, the whole world is His. What do you think are some reasons we are drawn to a scarcity-selfish mindset rather than a provision - generous mindset?
- What are some practical ways you could use hospitality in your home and the resources God has given you to practice generosity?
- What are your fears when it comes to being generous to others?
- What are practical ways you find helpful in keeping track of spending?
- What are some mental processes you go through when determining if it is wise to buy something or leave it behind?
- Have you ever felt you were endanger of becoming ensnared in the pursuit of wealth?

PRAY:

Pray that you will desire the generosity of God rather than the selfishness of man.

RESPOND:

Find and read the promises of God in His Word regarding wealth. Take this week to practice a 24 hour sabbath from work, buying, and selling. Sabbath is a way to declare you are more than what you make, produce, or earn. It is a way of actively trusting God with the future and provision. Share with your group next week what you learned!



Sermon Notes
The Pursuit of Happiness
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Quote:

Jesus talked about money a lot. In fact, more than heaven or hell, he mentioned money.

Why is that? I think it's because Jesus knew how easily our whole lives can become wrapped around what we make, and what we have rather than...

Who we are, who we are becoming, and what we do with the resources God trusts us with.

Selfishness is based on scarcity and lack of faith, but Generosity is based on abundance and security in God's faithfulness. Which is better?

The journal of Natural Human Behavior. They surveyed 1.7 million people across 164 countries, and they discovered that people who made \$60-75k were actually just as happy, if not happier than people who earned \$200k+.

Start thinking about money as another tool you have to build the kingdom of God.