

WEEK 5 — THE RADICAL DISCIPLE: SIMPLICITY | Less So You Can Live More

INTRODUCTION (Sean)

Opening Question: Why is “more” never enough?

Have you ever noticed how our culture is constantly discipling us?

Just one more raise. One more promotion. One more bedroom. One more vacation. One more Amazon package. One more streaming service. One more upgrade. One more...

And what’s fascinating is that “more” always seems just out of reach. We convince ourselves that contentment is waiting on the other side of the next purchase, the next paycheck, or the next achievement.

But here’s the irony. We live in one of the wealthiest cultures in human history, yet anxiety, comparison, debt, and dissatisfaction continue to rise.

Maybe the issue isn’t that we don’t have enough. Maybe we’ve been looking for life in the wrong place.

Here's our Big Idea today: *Radical disciples reject materialism and embrace biblical simplicity because Christ is our greatest treasure and His Kingdom is our greatest investment.*

Jesus isn’t giving financial advice. He’s exposing something much deeper. He’s revealing what our hearts truly treasure.

MAIN POINT ONE (Sean) What Is Competing for My Heart?

Matthew 6:19-24

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, 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. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Main Question: Why is "more" so powerful?

This first point diagnoses the problem.

Jesus isn't warning us about money because money is evil. He's warning us because money can quietly become a rival to God. Notice that Jesus never commands us to own less. He calls us to treasure differently.

This isn't primarily a conversation about finances. It's a conversation about worship. And like any good physician, Jesus doesn't begin with the cure. He begins with the diagnosis.

Jesus gives us **three diagnostics** to reveal what may be competing for our hearts.

He says,

- **Look at your treasure.**
- **Look at your vision.**
- **Look at your master.**

If we're willing to answer those honestly, we'll discover what is sitting on the throne of our hearts.

Your Treasure Directs Your Heart

Jesus says, *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Notice He doesn't say, *"Where your heart is, your treasure will follow."*

He says, *"Where your treasure is, your heart will be also."*

That's completely backwards from how most of us think. We assume our hearts determine our priorities.

Jesus teaches that our priorities actually shape our hearts. What we consistently invest in gradually becomes what we consistently love.

Our money. Our time. Our attention. Our conversations. Our calendars. They all reveal what we're becoming devoted to.

One of the greatest spiritual disciplines is intentionally placing your treasure where you want your heart to grow. Because your heart always follows the trail your treasure leaves behind.

And notice something else. Jesus never condemns storing treasure. He redirects it. *"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."*

Jesus isn't against investment. He's inviting us to invest in a different economy. An economy where moths can't destroy... Rust can't corrode... Thieves can't steal... And death can't interrupt the return.

So let me ask you Jesus' first diagnostic question: **What does your treasure reveal about what is competing for your heart?**

Your Vision Shapes Your Life

Then Jesus says something that almost feels unrelated. *"The eye is the lamp of the body..."*

But it isn't unrelated at all. He's moved from treasure... to perspective.

In Jewish culture, a healthy eye represented generosity. An unhealthy or evil eye represented greed, envy, and selfishness.

Jesus is asking, **How do you see the world?**

When you look at your life... Do you primarily notice what you don't have? Or do you recognize what God has already entrusted to you?

Do you walk into a room asking, *"What can I get?"* Or, *"How can I bless someone?"*

A greedy heart is never satisfied because it is always focused on what is missing. A grateful heart finds joy because it recognizes what God has already provided.

Your vision shapes your direction. What fills your eyes eventually fills your life.

Here's Jesus' second diagnostic question: **How does the way you see the world reveal what is competing for your heart?**

Every Disciple Has a Master

Finally, Jesus moves beneath treasure. Beneath perspective. To worship.

He says, "**No one can serve two masters.**"

Notice He doesn't say, "*You shouldn't.*" He says, "*You can't.*" Every heart eventually gives its ultimate allegiance to someone or something.

Money is an incredible servant.

- It can feed families.
- Support missionaries.
- Plant churches.
- Bless communities.
- Advance the gospel.

But it makes a terrible master. Because money promises things it was never created to provide.

- Security.
- Identity.
- Peace.
- Hope.
- Purpose.

Only Jesus can carry that weight.

Jesus uses the word **mammon** here. He's not simply talking about coins or currency. *Mammon* represents wealth that has become an object of trust. In other words, the issue isn't having money—it's depending on money to provide what only God can provide.

Money makes a wonderful tool, but a terrible savior.

- **It can buy comfort, but not peace.**
- **It can buy a house, but not a home.**
- **It can buy medicine, but not healing.**
- **It can buy entertainment, but not joy.**
- **It can buy a bed, but not rest.**

Only Jesus can give us those things.

That's why the deeper question isn't, *"Do you have money?"*

The deeper question is, **"Where have you placed your trust?"**

Because whatever you trust most... is what you will ultimately serve.

And here's Jesus' final diagnostic question: **Who—or what—is truly competing for your heart?** Because whatever sits on the throne of your heart will eventually become your master.

Landing

Materialism isn't measured by how much you own. It's measured by how much your possessions own you.

Transition

If Jesus exposes the problem... Paul now shows us what freedom looks like.

MAIN POINT TWO (Daisy)

What Does Enough Actually Look Like?

As I read this scripture on the screen, keep this question in mind: If more isn't the answer... then what is?

1 Timothy 6:6–10 (please upload the entire scripture)

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. (re-read and PAUSE HERE AND ASK THE ROOM: Isn't that the exact opposite of what we've been taught? The world defines gain as accumulating more. Paul defines gain as becoming content.)

⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Scripture clearly shows that Contentment is learned

Paul wasn't born content. He learned it. That means contentment isn't a personality trait. It's a spiritual discipline.

Jesus left the abundance he had in heaven to be born on earth into a family with no riches, and died with no riches other than the

priceless gift of salvation. The purpose wasn't satisfaction in the riches earth offers, but enriching your spirit with what heaven offers.

Jesus didn't need "one more" of anything to accomplish his mission.

What are you taking "one more" of that you cannot take to heaven, my friends? What "one-more; pay check, accolade, new iphone, have you been trying to fit into a spirituelluggage that is rejected in the heavenly TSA?!!!

Transition question: What does enough of "one-more-thing" look like?

Enough Is Not a Number

Enough is trusting God's provision, whereas Culture says, " More is your only safety net "

I was having a bible study with a friend of mine, and she shared about a season she was in that left her with only ENOUGH of what she needed to get by... and how one day a man approached her to ask for money, and thankfully she had enough to do so. BUT then the question was raised, what if you didn't have enough? And it reminded us of a story in ACTS chapter 3 where a beggar was at a temple asking for money. Peter replies to him, "Silver and gold I do not have, BUT what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ

of Nazareth, walk.".... WOW, We learned that the beggars' safety net was making enough for the day, but Peter shows him that in Jesus Christ we have something eternal!

Transition question: Have you noticed an area in your life where you have not trusted God? If not, let me bring up an area that's going to get people swishing in their chairs - have you not trusted God with your finances?

Money Makes a Wonderful Servant but a Terrible Master

So if money is your Master, then Jesus isn't

Please hear what I am saying, like the rich young ruler in Luke, you can choose to reject Jesus for the comfort money brings you.

But Notice Paul **doesn't condemn money**.

He **warns** against loving it. Verse 6 Paul clearly states, "For the **LOVE** of money is a root of ALL kinds of Evil."

The warning isn't about the possession of MONEY; the warning is against allowing MONEY to possess our hearts..... a heart that was made to fit only one type of payment..... Not cash, not credit cards, not silver or gold... BUT SALVATION through the death of Christ!

So let me ask you to reflect on these three questions ->

Personal Application

- What would change in your life if you truly believed Jesus was enough?
- Where is comparison stealing your joy?
- Where is fear keeping you from trusting God's provision?

** As you think about this, I want to welcome Pastor Sean back as he shares why we should choose simplicity

Transition Back to Sean: If Jesus becomes enough... Then our lives begin pointing toward something much bigger than ourselves.

MAIN POINT 3 (Sean) What Is Worth Living For?

Main Question: Why would we choose simplicity? Because simplicity is never the goal. **The Kingdom is.**

Matthew 6:33

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

I love that Jesus doesn't simply tell us what to stop pursuing. He tells us what is worthy of pursuing. Christianity isn't merely about saying no. It's about discovering a greater yes.

The Kingdom of God becomes so compelling that lesser things lose their grip on us.

Notice Jesus doesn't say, *"Seek the Kingdom after you've accumulated enough."*

He says, **Seek first**. Because whatever comes first... Shapes everything else.

Just as Jesus began this sermon by asking, "What is competing for your heart?" He now answers, "This is what deserves your heart."

Kingdom Reality #1 — Simplicity Creates Freedom

When Christ becomes our greatest treasure... Possessions lose their power. Simplicity isn't about deprivation. It's about availability.

The less we're enslaved by possessions... The more available we become to God.

- Freedom with our schedules.
- Freedom with our finances.
- Freedom with our hearts.
- Freedom to say yes when God calls.
- Freedom to give when someone is in need.
- Freedom to go wherever Christ leads.

The goal isn't an empty garage. It's an open life.

Kingdom Reality #2 — Freedom Fuels Generosity

The early church wasn't generous because they were wealthy. They were generous because Jesus had become their treasure.

When Christ fills your heart... You don't have to cling so tightly to everything else. Open hands become possible because you've already received what matters most.

That's why generosity isn't first about money. It's about trust.

Generosity says, "Lord, everything I have already belongs to You."

And here's the beautiful paradox. The more loosely we hold our possessions... The more freely God can use them for His purposes.

(Briefly reference Acts 2 and 2 Corinthians 9 here)

"That's exactly what we see in the early church. They held their possessions with open hands, and Paul later tells us that 'God loves a cheerful giver.' Their generosity wasn't driven by obligation—it overflowed from transformed hearts."

Kingdom Reality #3 — Kingdom Investments Last Forever

Everything we own... Will one day belong to someone else.

- Every car.
- Every house.
- Every investment account.
- Every possession.

None of it goes with us.

But Jesus says there is an investment that never loses its value.

- Every soul reached.
- Every missionary sent.
- Every church planted.

- Every child disciplined.
- Every hungry person fed in Jesus' name.

Every act of generosity done for the glory of God. **Echoes into eternity.** That's why simplicity matters. Not because we're trying to own less. But because we're trying to invest more wisely.

One day we'll stand before Christ. He won't ask, "How much did you accumulate?" He'll ask, "What did you do with what I entrusted to you?" That is the investment that lasts forever.

Landing

The world spends its life collecting things it cannot keep. Jesus invites us to spend our lives investing in people we will meet again forever. That's the life of a radical disciple.

Not less for the sake of less. Less... So we can live for more.

GOSPEL (Daisy)

Treasure Christ More

Listen, friends, this isn't a sermon about possessions. It's a sermon about Jesus and the contentment we can find in the treasure he offers.

Jesus gave his life on the cross to demonstrate that people mattered more than possessions.

The Gospel never says, "Own less." The Gospel says, "**Treasure Christ more.**"

When Jesus becomes our greatest treasure, everything else finds its proper place.

- Possessions become tools.
- Generosity becomes joy.
- Contentment becomes possible.
- Mission becomes our priority.

With that in mind, I'd like to welcome pastor Sean back up to share tonight's challenge.

CHALLENGE (SEAN)

Here is our challenge for you today:

- **What has become a competitor for your heart?**
- **What is God asking you to loosen your grip on?**
- **How could greater simplicity create greater availability for God's Kingdom?**

Friends, can I invite you to stand and close your eyes? Take a moment to think of whatever has quietly taken first place in your hearts over Jesus as we pray for you:

Heavenly Father, I pray that the Holy Spirit cultivates contentment in the hearts of your people, to deepen trust in your provision, and make Light & Life a church that lives simply, so it can give generously and reach people with the gospel.

CLOSING PRAYER

So we come before You with open hands and surrendered hearts. Thank You for every good and perfect gift You've entrusted to us. You are our Provider, our Sustainer, and the Giver of every blessing. Yet today we confess how easily our hearts are drawn toward the things You've given instead of You, the One who gives them. Forgive us, Father, for the times we've believed the lie that more possessions, more success, or more security could satisfy what only You can fill. Forgive us for allowing temporary treasures to compete for the place that belongs to You alone. Lord Jesus, thank You for becoming poor so that we might become rich in the grace of God. Thank You for laying aside the glory of heaven, taking on flesh, and giving Your life so that we could receive the eternal treasure of salvation. You alone are worthy of our highest affection. Help us to treasure You above everything else, knowing that when we have You, we have everything we truly need. Holy Spirit, search our hearts today. Reveal anything that has quietly become an idol. Break the grip of materialism, comparison, fear, and the endless pursuit of more. Produce within us the fruit of contentment. Teach us to trust the Father's provision, to delight in the Son's sufficiency, and to walk faithfully in obedience each day. Make us a people who seek first the Kingdom of God. Fill our hearts with joy that overflows into generosity. Help us to hold every resource, every opportunity, and every blessing with open hands, eager to use them for Your glory and for the good of others. Father, shape us into radical disciples who live simply so that we may love deeply, give freely, and invest our lives in what will last forever. We pray all of this through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and for Your glory, Father. Amen.