



BREAKING FREE

FROM THE MONEY TRAP

Live Simply – Cultivate Contentment

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January 21, 2018

Outline

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8, Matthew 6:25,31-33, 1 John 4:18 and Philippians 4:10-13 and review the outline:

- I. Learn how to celebrate what you do have instead of focusing on what you don't
- II. Never let what used to be luxuries turn into necessities
- III. Recognize that everything you have in this life is a given, not a gotten

Sermon Discussion:

I. Conversation Starter Questions

- A. What was one of your first major purchases in life? Did you save up for it?
- B. What does money promise us besides stuff? What are the deeper desires we have that we think money can buy?
- C. What do you think of this statement: "Stinginess is not the reason most of us don't give away more money. It's fear." How is love the opposite? Has anyone seen this work out in your life?
- D. How can you tell when something has crossed over from being a "luxury" to a "need"?
- E. What stands out to you in the C.S. Lewis quote:

"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 wish we could do and cannot do because our giving expenditure excludes them."

II. Application Questions

- A. What does it look like to "deeply enjoy what you have now"? Would those closest to you say that you do this?
- B. Can you relate to Paul in regards to "learning the secret of being content" no matter what the circumstances are? How can you tell when you are truly content in the riches of Christ?
- C. If everything you have is "on loan," how does that change how you think of "your stuff"?

III. Gospel Connection – Having our money in perspective is evidence that our hearts value what Christ has done for us! To understand the gospel means we see the wealth of peace with God.

IV. Prayer Focus Ideas

- A. Is anyone struggling financially? Worried about taking care of meeting the needs of their family? How can we pray to take a step towards trusting the Lord?
- B. Is anyone convicted of the lack of contentment in their hearts? Is the Lord calling anyone to repent of their past "love of money" and turn to trust the Lord more fully?