



Series: God and Money

Sermon: Part 1: Culture of Greed

Date: Sunday, January 14th, 2024

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” (1 Timothy 6:10)

If money is not handled properly, it can easily corrupt us, control us, worry us, and even strangle our soul.

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

“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.” (Luke 16:13)

A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed Him gladly. (Luke 19:2-6)

Zacchaeus has everything in the world, but yet he isn't _____ and is now running after God.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He [Jesus] has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” (Luke 19:7)

Zacchaeus is like all of _____, a sinner who has fallen short of what God would have wanted for him.

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor; and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” (Luke 19:8)

Zacchaeus Makes Two Promises To Jesus:

- 1. Give half of his possessions to the poor**
- 2. Make things right by paying back 4 times the amount of anyone who he had cheated**



Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:9-10)

When we live by the law, our response is:
"How much do I _____ to give back?"

When we understand God's grace and mercy, our response is:
"How much _____ I give?"

Idols need to be taken down and be _____ by God.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

If we are a follower of Jesus, we share in Jesus' Heavenly wealth because He shared in our Earthly poverty. Jesus gave up all His treasure so we would be His treasured people. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Bottom Line: When we put our identity in God, rather than in our money or what we possess, money loses its hold on us and goes back to being simply money, a tool to live and to help others with.

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

- 1. Why is it easier to see greed in others but not in ourselves?*
- 2. Why is it so easy to replace God with money as the thing that we look to to save us? How have you done that in your own life?*
- 3. How does our reorientation to the generosity of Jesus in the Gospel solve any stinginess we have as well as allow us to be more free to serve those with what we do have?*
- 4. What is your next step with Jesus as a result of what you heard today?*

Songs used in service: No Longer Slaves (Jonathan David & Melissa Helsler), Chain Breaker (Zach Williams), Walking Free (Micah Tyler), Believe For It (CeCe Winans), More Than Able (Maverick City Music), Jesus Paid It All (The Worship Initiative)

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Any prayer requests?

Name: _____ **Email (so we can follow up):** _____

What can we be praying for you about?