

LIFE GROUP NOTES:

SERIES: The Pursuit of Happiness

PART FOUR: If I Were A Rich Man!

If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.



Luke 16:10-13 (NLT)

INTRODUCTION

When it comes to our finances, most of us believe that the connection between happiness and money is determined by the amount of money we have. If money hasn't made us happy so far, it's only because we don't have enough. But if your goal is to find happiness, no amount of money will ever be enough. It's not about how much money you have; it's about how you manage it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you thought a material possession would make you happy (we've all thought it). Did you acquire that possession? If so, how long did your happiness last?
2. Have you ever met someone who was happy despite having little money? If so, what stood out about that person?
3. Read Luke 16:10–13. What are some reasons it's so tempting for us to serve money instead of God?
4. To what extent does discontentment currently drive your behaviour and undermine your sense of peace?
5. Today's message said, "Giving will bring you joy, saving will bring you peace, and living on the rest will bring you freedom." Is it difficult for you to believe that? Why or why not?
6. Is it most difficult for you to give, save, or live within your means? Why do you think that area of your finances is a struggle? What can you do this week to begin to re-prioritize your finances? How can others support you?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

We associate money and happiness with the word **MORE**. Money won't make you happy, but money can contribute to your happiness if you **MANAGE** it well. Anything that undermines our **PEACE**, like the mismanagement of our finances, will also undermine our happiness. Jesus indicates the chief competitor for our devotion is not the Devil; it's our desire to acquire. This desire begins with **DISCONTENTMENT**, which is driven by **AWARENESS** of what others have and what is available and **GREED**. Greed is the assumption that it is all for my consumption. This finally leads to **DEBT** and a loss of control in our lives. Money becomes our master. Generosity and wisdom with money will make you happy. Imagine if you'd been wise and generous with your money all along. If we **GIVE** (first) **SAVE** (second) and **LIVE** on the rest we'd be happier. That's the direction in which Jesus leads those who will follow.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Who would you rather have as your master? Money or God?

Maybe your best option is to invite your heavenly father to manage you as you learn to manage your money? This is how you keep money from managing you.

"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**