



Sermon Series: What Keeps You Up at Night? - Fear of Financial Failure.

Big Idea: Trust God, not stuff.

Main Passage: 1 Tim 6:6-10, 17-19

⁶ Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. ⁷ After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. ⁸ So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

⁹ But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

¹⁷ Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. ¹⁹ By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

Three attitudes to overcome your financial fears:

- Redefine wealth (1 Tim 6:6).
- Eliminate the longing for earthly riches (1 Tim 6:9-10).
- Secure a firm foundation (1 Tim 6:17-19).

Discussion:

What?

The big idea for this sermon was "trust God, not stuff." What does it mean to do that?

Read the story of an encounter Jesus had with a rich young ruler. Mark 10:17-31.

The young ruler recognized Jesus as a great teacher and perhaps even as God by calling Jesus good. He was kind, he had done everything right from when he was a boy. He was everything that today we would call a great aspiring young man. Jesus was even seemed to recognize what was in front of him and he was moved to love him. But something wasn't quite. What was it?

How did the disciples respond?

What promise was given to the disciples as a comfort to them? See Mark 10:29-30.

How might this story have been different if the rich young ruler had applied the attitudes toward finances we learned from 1 Timothy 6 and in the sermon?

So What?

The rich young leader had the right methods but the wrong motivation. There was a heart issue centering around his stuff. Jesus called it out and the man wasn't willing to yield. What is it that is most difficult to let go of and why?

Why is it that we are so afraid to completely trust Christ for our provision to be able to freely follow him?

What comfort, or freedom from fear, can you receive from reorienting your attitudes about money and things? (Hint: what was a comfort to the disciples who had given up everything?)

Do What?

What can you do to reorient your attitude towards finances to claim Christ-like freedom?

Scriptures for further study or memorization:

Use these as a reference to help you gain a Godly attitude toward your finances.

Luke 12:22, 32

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

Mark 12:42-44

⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Psalms 49:16-20

¹⁶ Do not be overawed when others grow rich,
when the splendor of their houses increases;

¹⁷ for they will take nothing with them when they die,
their splendor will not descend with them.

¹⁸ Though while they live they count themselves blessed—
and people praise you when you prosper—

¹⁹ they will join those who have gone before them,
who will never again see the light of life.

²⁰ People who have wealth but lack understanding
are like the beasts that perish.

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."