

Stewardship: Contentment

Hebrews 13:5-6

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THE BIG IDEA

God is faithful to give us the money we need. So, instead of chasing after “more, more, more,” we can be content with what we have. Gratitude and giving are two critical ways to learn contentment with our money.

GETTING STARTED

1. What were your first experiences with money? Did you get an allowance as a kid? What was your first job? Did you enjoy it?
2. What was something you learned from Sunday’s message? Were there points that challenged you or encouraged you?

LEARNING & LIVING OUT SCRIPTURE

Together, read **Hebrews 13:5-6**.

3. Define what you think Paul means by “love of money” and being “content.”
4. A good rule of thumb is to read about five verses before and five verses afterward to get an idea of the context of the passage you’re reading. Does that help you understand the context better? Why do you think this section cautioning against the misuse of money follows from sexual sin? (Check out the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 and note that adultery and stealing are right next to each other.)
5. Consider this complementary verse from 1 Timothy 6:17-19: “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” What do these two passages teach you about money?
6. What would Paul say to our consumer culture that continually advertises and markets us so that we will buy more products? What resources do we have Biblically to resist these temptations and be content?

LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”

7. When our kids were little, we’d talk about the More Monster—the desire to want more things. Where do you struggle with wanting more? When have you “silenced the more Monster” found contentment with your money?

THE “EXTRA-MILE”

8. One way to overcome the love of money is to give away. This might be a good opportunity to see how your RLG or small group can keep you accountable to giving money to the church and to other social services or mission organizations.

SHARING & PRAYER REQUESTS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES *(optional)*

“There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, in the end, ‘Thy will be done.’ ” C. S. Lewis

“You cannot serve both God and mammon.” Jesus (Matthew 6:24)

“If I were rich, I'd have the time that I lack
To sit in the synagogue and pray.
And maybe have a seat by the Eastern wall.
And I'd discuss the holy books with the learned men, several hours every day.
That would be the sweetest thing of all.”

“If I Were a Rich Man” from Fiddler on the Roof