

Get Rich Quick (Part 1)

The reason for this series each year:

- Financial issues cause a majority of marital issues.
- Getting a handle on this before Christmas rather than after.
- A disciple of Jesus is growing in obedience to the Lord, and God speaks more about money than anything else.
- Opportunity Cost—by being involved in the wrong things, we lose our ability to be involved in the right ones. God is working through our church—see the 20/20 Vision.

In *Experiencing God*, we learned....

- God is active, He loves us, and He speaks.
- He sees differently than we see, so it causes a crisis of belief in us—Is He our King? Do we *trust* Him?

The devil uses earthly wealth to get us to care for ourselves.

- Do it yourself—trust yourself—seek the temporary now—take the easy way.

Matthew 4:4–10 (NIV) ⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” ⁷Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

God knows that to seek the world leaves you empty.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NIV) Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

1 John 2:15–17 (NIV) ¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 Timothy 6:3–10 (NIV) ³If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. ⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹**Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.** ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. [emphasis added]

Matthew 6:24 (NIV) No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Proverbs 11:28 (NIV) Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

The principle we want you to learn in this series is to *redefine wealth*.

Matthew 6:19–21 (NIV) ¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Below is a key passage you will see over and over again in this series. It says to seek God’s Kingdom first.

Matthew 6:31–34 (NIV) ³¹So do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But **seek first** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. [emphasis added]

Two men: Zacchaeus and the Rich Young Ruler

Luke 19:8–9 (NIV) ⁸But 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.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.”

Matthew 19:23–30 (NIV) ²³Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁵When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?” ²⁶Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” ²⁷Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?” ²⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.”

Notice:

1. Both came missing something. That’s why they came —they knew it.
 - The world left them empty.
1. Both came to the right place: Jesus.
3. One kept the world’s way of looking at wealth, and the other made an exchange that changed his life forever.

1 Timothy 6:17–19 (NIV) ¹⁷Command 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. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In 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.

Life Group Discussion Questions:

Passages to discuss: Matthew 19:16-26, Luke 19:1-10

Suggested passages for reading during the week:

1 Timothy 6:10, 17-19; Luke 12:13-21; Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34; Matthew 13:18-23; Romans 8:18-25

1. How do you define “rich”? How is that definition reflected in your life?
2. How does God’s Word define “rich”, and what does this look like?
3. What do you think the rich ruler considered wealth? How did it impact how he lived?
4. Talk about Zacchaeus’ view of wealth. How did it impact how he lived?
5. Share about your experiences with various definitions of “rich”.
 - a. What belief is driving you as you manage your money and resources? How does it impact how you live?
6. What is God showing you about Himself, His ways, and yourself in this area?

Practice: Intentionally watch how you manage your finances this week (or) how you are defining “rich” this week. Consider what it shows you about your belief about rich.