

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Summer Wisdom: Wisdom for Money
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July 5, 2020

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is the coolest/most memorable thing you have ever bought or received?

Reading: Proverbs 3:9-10, 11:24, 13:11, 21:20, 22:9, 28:27, 30:8-9

Outline:

- I. Don't Waste Money (Proverbs 21:20)
 - a. The difference between the wise and the foolish is how they use their money: the fool immediately spends and wastes it, but the wise save it.
 - b. Don't follow the Dream of Novelty (chasing the next new thing); be stewards of money.
Q: What is "precious treasure?"
- II. Don't Withhold Money (Proverbs 3:9-10, 11:24, 22:9, 28:27)
 - a. Selfishly hoarding and withholding our money from others is just as harmful as wasting it.
 - b. Looking at money and possessions as tools for loving others helps us not to waste or withhold it. Money is not the ultimate; our relationships with others are.
Q: How can you decide how much to give and how much to withhold?
- III. Don't Worship Money (Proverbs 30:8-9)
 - a. Both rich and poor can make idols of money. Seek to honor God with your resources and firstfruits and be content with what you have.
 - b. Seek a greater love: Christ forsook all wealth and glory to save us from sin and break us from our idolatry. We are now free to love and serve Him with what we have.
Q: How does "falsehood and lying" connect with the rest of the passage?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) What're you chasing that competes with God (money/stuff, the next new thing, glory, etc.)?
- 2) How can you be a better steward of your money?
- 3) Do you see your money as an end goal, or as a tool with which to love others?
- 4) What do you idolize over God in your life?
- 5) How is God calling you to serve Him and others with what you have?

Suggestions for further study:

- Luke 18:18-30 **Q: Must we sell everything to enter the Kingdom? What's Jesus' point here?**
- 1 Timothy 6:6-19 **Q: Is money bad? How should we think about money?**
- Philippians 2:1-11 **Q: How does our use of money relate to Christ's example in the text?**

Closing Prayer: *Gracious God, so often we are given to the love of things that are not You. We ask that You would shatter our idols, our love of money and possessions. Shatter it with the perfect love of Your son, Jesus, who gave up everything to claim us as His own. Please work this in us by the power of Your spirit in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*