



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

October 5-11, 2020

Sermon by Lead Pastor Pete Moon

Sermon Title: *“The Money Problem”*

Notes from sermon on 10/4:

Things to Pray For This Week:

Family Focus Question:

How can we as a family make sure we are serving God and not money?

Questions for Small Groups

1. Does the concept of tithing (giving ten percent of our income to the Lord) seem unrealistic?
2. What would my life look like if I stopped being anxious over money?
3. What do you think Jesus meant when he said that we cannot serve both God and money?

Monday, October 5: Read Matthew 6:19-24

It is the largest source of marital arguments. It has torn apart families, friends, and communities. It often leads to anxiety, depression, deceit, lying, violence, and murder. It enslaves us, forcing us into lifestyles and occupations that violate our principles and make us miserable.

The love of money is the cruelest master, yet arguably the most common one. In a year when we have felt trapped by isolation, disease, and racial injustice, this week we turn to examine one of our greatest sources of enslavement in an effort to break free.

Today’s familiar verse is easy to quote and very hard to follow. Our human nature wants to compete, hoard, and have the spotlight shined on us. Instead, we are told to focus on trusting God for our material security and sense of self-worth. How do we do this and still be good providers for our family and responsible financial savers for our future? Where do we draw the line?

For the rest of the week, we will explore scripture passages that give guidance on why trusting God rather than money is the better way and how we are expected to do it. Today’s reading starts with one body part over which we should gain control: our eyes. Where are we *looking* for peace, love, joy, and meaning? How does it turn out when it comes with a price tag rather than a priceless gift?

Tuesday, October 6: Read Matthew 6:25-34

Today we read one of the most calming passages in the entire Bible, yet we might not have learned it as the follow-up to yesterday's reading. Recognizing that the commandment "do not worry..." immediately follows "You cannot serve both God and money" can be a first step to understanding how we can gain control over the anxiety that both consumes us and drives us to excess consumption. Knowing we can serve a God who both provides for us and has created us inherently worthy of love, attention, and admiration is a key to letting go of the anxious pursuit of money. Without money as our master, we can see it as a gift – one we can enjoy and share rather than pursue and stockpile. We can further do this by turning our focus to things greater than nice food, clothing, and bank accounts. Let us all look more to the birds in the air and the incredible gifts of God's creation around us (nature, family, friends, humanity) as we share in the overwhelming abundance of God's providence, love, and peace.

Wednesday, October 7: Read Deuteronomy 8:10-18

The ancient Jewish people knew that gratitude was the key to joy, contentment, and peace. Funny how people can still make money selling books telling us this nowadays. In this passage from Deuteronomy, we read the commandment "Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God....otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down...then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God..." (vs. 11-14). When have we done this ourselves? How does it turn out? How would our hearts, minds, behaviors, and societies change if we always avoided believing "my power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me" instead of remembering the Lord our God, who gave us the ability to produce wealth (vs. 17-18)?

Thursday, October 8: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

So we want to obey these commandments regarding money that we've heard this week, but we want to do it sparingly, not giving up too much control. We'll start with something small, like giving up a Starbucks habit (at least sometimes) and making an extra donation to something. That ought to do the trick. Today's passage teaches us, however, that the benefits we reap are in direct relation to what we sow, and when we obey reluctantly, without our heart truly in it, we forfeit the true abundance that comes from a life focused on generosity. Think of a time when you were tempted to give sparingly of your time, energy, money, or love, then allowed yourself to instead give generously. How did it feel?

Friday, October 9: Read Acts 2:42-46

The opening chapters of Acts describe the church the way Christ intended it to be: a place of generosity, community, and power. No one was in need, because everyone shared. Is this the church we are upholding today? Is this the world we are working to create? What is holding us back? As we examine what we want to do with our individual and collective resources as members of Reveille, let us consider all of this week's passages, and ask ourselves what abundance and power we want to enjoy and spread to others by keeping our eyes on God and our hearts in gratitude for what we have been given this year (yes, even 2020). How we can create a more perfect image of God's kingdom in 2021?

Saturday, October 10: Scripture Memorization: Matthew 6:33

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well." (NRSV)

Sunday, October 11: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of

Common Confession: *Lord, we confess that our money has often taken the best of and in us. We focus on it, we worry about it, we fight over it. There are times where our resources own us and if we are honest, control us. You have said that we cannot serve both you and money and there have been times that our finances have interrupted our relationship with you. By your grace, give us freedom, teach us to stay generous, and to yield even our finances to your sovereign grace and control. In Christ's name we pray, AMEN.*