

Unlocking Freedom In Your Life, Part 8: Free From Economic Slavery

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **This Week: Free from Economic Slavery**
- How much of your time and energy do you spend chasing after money?
- How much of your self-image or your opinions of others is affected by money?
- Let's Read **Luke 16:10-13**
 - o God is interested in how you handle money! What are "true riches?"
 - o Can't serve both, so quit trying!!
 - Serve God but make money your servant.
- Jesus proclaimed good news to the poor. **Luke 4:16-21**
 - o What is the good news to the poor? **Matthew 6:31-33**
- We will do our 3 steps from John 8:31-32 in a bit, but first...
- Does God want me to prosper or is that a bad thing?
 - o Is it ok for a Christian to be healthy, wealthy, and wise? Or is that selfish?
- Let's work through this by looking at **1 Timothy 6:3-19**.
 - o V3-5: How did they get under that impression?
 - o V6: Did you know that you could have both of those at the same time?
 - o V7-8: That is a good place to have your heart. Does that mean that you can't have anything else or just that you don't need anything else to be content?
 - o V9-10: Here we see some great dangers of things like greed, covetousness, and selfishness.
 - Covetousness: jealousy over what others have. Yuck.
 - Greed: a mental cloudiness that causes money and things to be overvalued.
 - Give up things more important than money for money: integrity, relationships, family, God's plan for you, etc.
 - But these are mindsets. It's not about what you actually have.
 - o V11-16 is "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness."
 - o V17-19. Wow. For our enjoyment??!!?? I thought we were supposed to give it all away??
- A few quick thoughts on Biblical prosperity.
 - o This is when your life is working and your priorities are in order.
 - This is largely a mindset, but your inner kingdom becomes your outer kingdom.
 - How can you tell if a shepherd is good?
 - Are Christians supposed to help the poor?
 - What happens to your life when you give it to Christ?
- Back to **Matthew 6:33**. Let's apply the 3 steps.
 - o Step one, believe this and do this.
 - Does this involve tithing? Spirit led giving. All things in due time.
 - How about working hard? (Ephesians 6:5-8)
 - o Step two, what do you learn?
 - When you submit your financial life to Christ, covetousness falls away and you begin to pray and manage money rather than just spend it.
 - Financial opportunities begin to present themselves oftentimes.
 - Miracles happen. 40AC in Bigfork. Even the summer of 1994ish?? Christmas 2010.
 - You see that it isn't a magic button, but as time goes on things get better. A lot of it is just being an honest hard worker, not wasting money, and being content.
 - When you let certain things go, that is when God adds them to you.
 - o Step three, how are we free?
 - God's economy: Kingdom work well funded and God's people well taken care of! That is good for everyone!!
 - o **Philippians 4:10:13**
 - o Pray for each other before you finish up!