



STUDY GUIDE: January 19, 2024

Message Series: No Regrets
 Message Title: A Rich Life
 Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

Share a purchase you have made which led to regret.

Pray:

Dear Lord, we know that You talk about money and stewardship more than any other topic in Your Word. That alone should make us take pause and consider what our hearts pursue. We pray that You prepare us to hear from You. We need direction and guidance. We want to serve You only and put our hope in You, the one who richly provides for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started: (20 min.)

- What is your visceral reaction when the topic of money comes up?

"Personal finance is only 20% head knowledge. It's 80% behavior!" ~ Dave Ramsey
You'll be interested to know that the Bible has thousands of verses on money management and that Jesus spoke more on the subject of money than he did heaven and hell combined. Why? Because money has the power to shape our lives...or to own our lives. We want the former without succumbing to the latter. We want money to be a life enhancing asset, not a life sucking monster. And the determining factor between those scenarios is not money itself, which is lifeless, but you. -Pastor Brian Hughes

Read Psalm 89:11 & 1 Chronicles 29:11-16.

- Being completely honest and real, how do you feel about the idea that God is the owner of all your money? Does that make you uneasy or give you a sense of comfort? Explain.
- David expresses humility in recognizing that the Israelites are merely giving back what God already owns. How can this perspective influence the way we give today—whether it's time, talents, or resources?

Reflect and Commit: (30 min.)

Pastor Brian shared three basic principles that have the power to change the trajectory of your financial future:

1. **Stop the Bleeding** - *Figure out how much you owe, put that number in a prominent place, and commit that you will finish 2025 with a number that is not any larger.*
2. **Start Digging Out** - *Imagine finishing 2025 with one or more of your debts paid off, and well on your way to paying them all off. You can do it - you just have to decide if you will.*
3. **Change Your Paradigm** - *The truth is, I'm rich. The truth is, YOU are rich. And that's the paradigm shift we really need. God has provided us community and health and family and luxury like few in the world enjoy.*

- What is your experience with these principles? How have you've seen God at work through them?

Read Hebrews 13:5 & Matthew 6:24.

- Why do you think Jesus uses the analogy of serving two masters? What makes money such a powerful rival to God?
- Both passages encourage trust in God over material things. How can we practically cultivate this trust in our daily lives?
- What steps can we take to align our financial decisions with our faith in God?

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear God, Your Word says that You will supply all our needs according to Your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Your Word is truth. Help us understand that all that we have and all that we are is Yours. We ask that You open up opportunities for us to give and save with the resources You provide. Help us to live more freely by paying off debt. Give us wisdom for where to reduce our expenses and teach us to be responsible with our finances all the while understanding that we truly are rich. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.