

June 28th, 2026

Sermon: The Open Hand | The Ripple Effect

Main text: Acts 2:42-47

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION REFLECTIONS & QUESTIONS...

Key Reflections/Quotes:

The message explored how Western culture often celebrates greed, success, and accumulation while Scripture calls believers toward contentment and stewardship.

Paul warns Timothy about false teachers whose unhealthy hearts are revealed through division, controversy, and using godliness for personal gain. Instead of chasing wealth, believers are invited to pursue Christlike character.

Jesus reinforces this through the Parable of the Rich Fool, showing that earthly wealth cannot provide eternal security. The real question is not how much money we have, but what our money says about what we truly value.

The challenge is not simply to give more; it is to let God reshape our hearts so that our finances reflect trust, generosity, and eternal priorities.

Key Quotes:

“Everything belongs to God. We are simply stewards.”

“Fullness of relationship with Jesus requires the entirety of who we are.”

“Repentance is not merely changing direction; it is a reorientation of life.”

“Money is not the problem. Our relationship with money is.”

“Materialism is like drinking seawater: the more you drink, the thirstier you become.”

“The answer to greed is not guilt. The answer to greed is a greater treasure.”

“When your life is over, what story will your money tell?”

“Will your money tell the story of bigger barns or a life that trusted God, loved people, and invested in His Kingdom?”

“It is dangerous, it leads people into many senseless and harmful desires. The love of money and things will send you down a path that is fraught with danger. Here are some of its deadly fruits: selfishness, cheating, fraud, perjury, robbery, envy, quarreling, hatred, violence, and murder. Or think of some other effects of materialism, which may immediately come to mind: pornography, blackmail, exploitation of the weak, oppression of the poor, immorality, and injustice. In short, materialism is a breeding ground for thousands of other sins.”

Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus

Key Questions:

1. Where do you see evidence that money or possessions influence your sense of security, identity, or success more than you would like?
2. What might “turning” (*shuv*) toward God look like in your financial life right now? Is there one practical step you sense God inviting you to take?
3. Paul says, “Godliness with contentment is great gain.” What makes contentment difficult in today’s culture, and how can we intentionally cultivate it?
4. Paul tells Timothy to flee some things and pursue others. Which of these qualities—righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, or gentleness—do you most need to pursue in this season?
5. If someone looked at your calendar, bank statement, and priorities, what story would they conclude your life is telling? What changes would help that story reflect God’s Kingdom more clearly?

