

Good money, bad money discussion guide

based on **James 4.13 – 5.6** (Linked to sermon from 6/10/19)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

This was the last part of a series looking back over James, to coincide with our annual request to people to review their giving and let us know if it's increasing, decreasing or staying the same.

Intro: When has giving something given you greatest joy?

Summary of sermon:

- Father God wants to bring good news about money – by releasing us from the world's way of thinking about money
- James 1.9-11 shows this upside-down Kingdom thinking: poor Christians should be proud because they get to inherit the universe for eternity; rich Christians should be humbled because they can't take their riches with them when they die
- A look at our wallets or bank statements give us a snapshot of our heart – what we love (Matthew 6.21)
- James 4.13-16 take aim at Christian business people, who make plans for their own time, forgetting God might have other plans!
- Similarly, we can easily view time as 'ours' to spend. Consequently, some of us aren't able to squeeze God into our calendar very easily.
- Our time is actually God's gift to us. We should see all our time as God's, and seek him on how we use all of it.
- We should trust he gives us enough time to do everything he wants us to do.
- James 5.1-6 lambasts super-rich people who forget their money isn't really theirs.
- Similarly, we can easily view money as our own, and struggle to give much away. We should view all our money as held in stewardship for God (1 Chronicles 29.14), and trust he has given us enough.
- Having time and money bring responsibility (James 4.17)
- Practically, we should budget (Prov 21.5), give (Matthew 6.19-20), save (Prov 6.6), spend.

To think through / discuss with others:

1. Most people wish they had more time. If you had more time, what would you use it for?
2. How might viewing *all* your time as God's time change the way you work, rest and play? How might it make devoting time to spiritual nourishment easier?
3. Think of a time when finances have caused you headaches or heartaches – either because you've had too little or too much. Share with others, if you're able to.
4. What causes us to get sucked into the world's way of thinking about money?
5. What are some of the devil's lies you may have believed (recently or in the past) about money and what it can buy? Are there any lies you need to rebuke now?
6. How might viewing *all* your money as God's money change the way you budget, give, save and spend?
7. Think of times you have seen people overstretch themselves financially. What were the consequences?
8. Dan shared how God has been challenging him about money recently. How has God been challenging you about your giving, saving and spending?