

Talking about money

sermon discussion guide

based on **1 Timothy 6.3-19** from 4/11/18

which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

Intro: Some people describe talking about personal finances (certainly outside the family) as a taboo subject. Why do you think we find it so hard to talk about?

Read 1 Timothy 6.6-10 and Philippians 4.11-13

How does Paul (the writer of these letters) manage to find such financial contentment?

Dan said one of the keys to contentment is to be thankful for what you *have* got rather than focus on what you *haven't* got. Do you agree / disagree? Why?

What, according to v9-10, are some of the dangers of greed?

How have you (or others you know) been affected in these ways?

Read 1 Timothy 6.11-16

Paul is writing to Timothy, encouraging him to stand out from the crowd, encouraging him to pursue God rather than money and things.

Choose one or two of the qualities from v11 we're to pursue. What would it look like in your life to actively pursue these things?

Read 1 Timothy 6.17-18

In what ways can we put our hope in wealth?

Why is it important to remember that God wants us to enjoy the things he's provided us with?

Paul (like Jesus in Luke 12.33) tells us (v19) to lay up treasures in heaven – by giving generously now. When we give to someone, it's as though there's a simultaneous bank transfer to heaven.

Bearing in mind that we can't take money out of this world (v7), how could this shape our thinking about giving?

Jesus said it's more blessed to give than receive (Acts 20.35). How have you found that to be true?

Dan summarised this passage as: if you want more money, beware! If you have money, be generous. Do you think that's a good summary? Why / why not?

How does this passage speak to our desire to be a God-dependent, grace-filled, Bible-based, mission-focused, authentic community?

Up: Praise God for what he's given for our enjoyment, and that he teaches us about something we're so prone to worry about (even if it's sometimes difficult teaching!)

In: How could you encourage each other to put your hope in God rather than wealth? How could you help one another handle your own financial concerns and temptations?

Out: A (non-Christian) friend of yours says they are worried about their finances post-Brexit. How do you respond as a Christian?