Dont Drink the Kool-Aid

Exposing the lies our culture tells us.

Lie #2: Money Can Buy Happiness

INTRODUCTION—Setting the Stage

Exposing The Lies

1. Money is an end in itself
   (Truth: Money is just a tool)

2. You are barely getting by
   (Truth: You are probably living above your means)

3. You are average
   (Truth: You are wealthy by global standards)

4. You have earned it
   (Truth: You were born into a unique mix of privilege & opportunity)

5. You will give when you have more money
   (Truth: The best predictor of what you would do with riches is what you do with your money now)

Detoxifying With Truth – A Tale of Two Rich Men

The Rich Young Ruler... **Luke 18:18-27**

Zaccheus... **Luke 19:1-10**

Lessons Learned

1. Money is a spiritual issue — Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:9-10
2. Money both shows and shapes the condition of your heart — Matthew 6:21
3. It's not about the math
4. Money is not tied to happiness
5. It's not your money anyway — Leviticus 25:23; Acts 2:44-45

Show Me the Money – Getting Practical

Questions to Ask...

1. Where does my money come from?
2. Where does my money go?
3. How are my lifestyle and approach to finances different than 3 years ago?
4. What is my next step?

Models for Giving...

BABY STEPS – Choose a percentage of your income that you can give on a regular basis starting today.

TITHING – Give 10% of your gross income on a regular basis.

GROWING TITHE – Begin by giving 10% of your income on a regular basis. Aim to increase this amount by 1% each year.

GRADUATED TITHE – Decide on a basic minimum amount you need to live comfortably. Give 10% of this amount, and a larger percentage of any extra.

SALARY CAP – Decide on a basic minimum amount you need to live comfortably. Give away everything above this amount.

CONCLUSION – Opportunity Cost

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS…

WARMING UP…

1. Read this quotation from Ron Sider, author of *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger,* about his experience of the generous life: "Many suppose that the lifestyle I have written about and sought to live is hard and painful. In truth, my life overflows with joy and fulfillment. This book is truly a guide to joy and self-fulfillment." What is your reaction to this quote? Does this fit with your own experience?
2. Share one thing from this week's message that challenged or puzzled you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK…

3. Read about the Old Testament practice of Jubilee in **Leviticus 25:1-17**. (a) Why do you think God commanded the Israelites to live this way? (b) What effect would this have had on people's attitudes to wealth and personal property? (c) Would such a practice be possible in our own culture? What would it look like? What would be the pros and cons? (d) What principles can we draw from this practice for how we handle our money and possessions today? Read **Leviticus 25:23.** How does this impact your own view of your personal property? How would you live differently if you kept this in mind in all your decisions?

SO WHAT?…

4. Talk about specific steps you might take in the area of handling your finances in response to what you have learned—or been reminded of—this week.

Joel Percy @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, December 14, 2008