

0 (0s):

Well, we're about to dive into the series in week three of our four weeks series a untangled. If you are here and you don't know I'm, Matt, Wolf from the lead pastor here. If you're watching online, I'm so glad that you've joined us today. If you go to Arise denver.com/new, we would love to connect with you in person or online. Go to rise denver.com/new, fill that form out. And I think it's really important, especially this time of year, because everybody who fills out one of these forms, we give a gift on your behalf. OK? We don't give you a gift like a lot of churches do, but we give a gift to the Denver rescue mission, \$5 in your name to help a family, get a meal, or find a place to stay some homeless people. And it's really important to hear it this time of year. So go and do that. Okay? If you've been lurking online for a while for several weeks, just fill it out.

0 (42s):

Anyways, go to arise. denver.com/new. I'd love to get to know you a little bit, and we are going to be in our series a untangled today, as we talked about that desire to be rich, we desire to be rich. Don't we all want to be rich. Okay. Everybody here is too righteous to raise their hand and admit it. Let's admit it. We all want to be rich. Okay. And this is how I know. Okay. This is the, the question that, that I want to ask you guys, let's do a little informal poll. And if you're online, I want you to type this in. Would

1 (1m 12s):

You rather, or would

0 (1m 14s):

You rather have a personal chef who cooks all your meals

1 (1m 19s):

Or someone

0 (1m 20s):

Who cleans your house and does all your laundry? Okay. I want you to type it in. Okay. The, the, the chef or the cleaner, if you're online. Okay. So who in here? Raise your hand. If you are the person who wishes, you'd have a personal chef. Raise your hand. Personal chefs. Okay. And then who wants somebody to clean and do all their laundry? Who would rather that? Okay. Interesting. It's a little bit leaning in person to those who have clean and do laundry. It's interesting. If you're here are some of you are like, well, I already have somebody clean. Okay. I know that that you would like to do all your laundry and some of you here a year, or if you do have it, if you're watching it and you do have, somebody's clean your house and you're personal chef go to a rise denver.com/give and become a tither today, right?

1 (2m 1s):

No. Why don't we all like, Oh,

0 (2m 3s):

That would be so nice. Right? We think about these things. Maybe we do those. Would you rather games? Maybe we think about, okay. If you could, would you rather have a cabin or a beach house?

1 (2m 11s):

A cabin beach house. Ooh,

0 (2m 15s):

But lean towards the beach house. You can type that in online too. I love to hear your comments, but we think about these things, right? The Jew, the dream house. If my, I just heard a little bit bigger yard if I just had a yard. Right. That's what we say around here. If I just had a yard, if my house was a little bit bigger, if I made it a little bit more money, then everything would be good. Oh, maybe if I could just save up for that boat,

1 (2m 34s):

Get it out on the water. We, we have

0 (2m 38s):

These things that we long for that we look forward to. Oh, maybe

1 (2m 40s):

If I could just get that PS five. Okay.

0 (2m 44s):

That's looking good for the teenagers this year, right? Or are those gamers that we have in the house? Okay. There's all these things that we wish we could get. And if we just had that, everything would be good. And that's how I know everyone of us wants to be used

1 (2m 54s):

The Rich, but here's the problem. None of will ever be Rich if that's how we're thinking. Okay.

0 (3m 4s):

None of us will ever be, are you at, do you know how I know this? Because a few years ago, there was a book that came out by Juliet Schor in a economist at Harvard and now Boston college. And in this book, what she says is the problem in our country is that no matter how much do you make you're around other people who make more, you could be making seven figure income a year in our country, but you will know some people who make eight figures a year and you'll think, man, I'm not very sure.

1 (3m 34s):

This is what we do. We're

0 (3m 37s):

In our country. We rub shoulders with people who are in different financial categories than we are, that are in those different tax brackets. And we always are around people that make more than us. In fact, in one study, they found that over one third, or I'm sorry, only one-third only one third of American households making over \$100,000 a year would agree with the statement I can afford to buy everything. I really need only one third of Americans who make over a a hundred thousand dollars degree, a a a hundred thousand dollars a year. Agree with the statement that I can afford to buy everything that I really need.

0 (4m 17s):

Here's even more interesting. 41% of Americans who make over \$200,000,

1 (4m 22s):

It's a year cry because they don't have enough money to buy the things they need. 41%. Okay.

0 (4m 30s):

It doesn't matter how much money we make in our country. There's always someone who makes more. And if you're like, no, no, no. I make the most amount of money go to a rise. [denver.com/give](https://denver.com/give) and become a tither today. Okay. The reality is that most all of us say, I'm not Rich 'cause we look around and there's people that are richer. We walk around in the neighborhoods, this neighborhood, where are a church is sitting, is the wealthy zip code

1 (4m 54s):

In the city of Denver the wealthiest zip code and all that

0 (4m 58s):

I did. There's this calculator online that you can compare it to the rest of the world. That if you take the median income for families in our neighborhood in eight, zero to three eight, it would be in the top 1.5% of earners in the entire world,

1 (5m 13s):

The world, the median, okay. That's where we live yet. None of us feel Rich do we are none of us feel Rich. We don't feel Rich okay.

0 (5m 25s):

And that's a problem. We wanna be rich, but we're not. And that's the thing that we need to untangle from

1 (5m 33s):

Our hearts today. We want to be Rich, but we're not.

0 (5m 38s):

And that has really knotted up, messed up our hearts. And as we've done this whole series, we were trying to untangle these things from our hearts in this desire of Being Rich. But let me tell you a little secret. The solution is not that you should stop wanting to do it.

1 (5m 51s):

In fact, it's okay to want to be Rich

0 (6m 1s):

Don't worry. I'm not going all in Gordon Gecko on you like that. Don't worry about it. It's not Wall Street here. I'm saying greed is good. That's not what I'm saying. But what I am saying is we need to change our focus. Unlike the first two messages in a series of the first one was about that desire to look good and impress other people. The second message was about our desire to fit in and really not kind of stand out. So people won't make fun of us or do hard things to us, those desires we needed to learn, to overcome and find freedom from. But this one to find freedom from the desire to be rich is not to stop wanting to be rich, but it's to direct that desire in

1 (6m 35s):

A different way, because Jesus,

0 (6m 37s):

In fact, is going to tell us how to be rich today. Interesting. Right? He didn't think you'd be getting that today in your series on, on Being Rich. But Jesus is going to tell you how to actually be rich and to untangle your heart from that, that desire to be rich, but you'll never be Rich that doesn't go to work, but we're going to learn how to actually,

1 (6m 55s):

Would he be Rich and truly be Rich in God's world.

0 (7m 0s):

So if you have your Bibles, go ahead and open them with me to Luke chapter 12,

1 (7m 5s):

We're going to start in verse 13, go to

0 (7m 6s):

Verse 21 today. You can follow that on online. If you go to AR the Bible app of some of you guys are using that here on your phones, you can do that in all of the scriptures I'm going to be using. Are there, you can

find It location-based find It rice Church Denver and you can find the scriptures. We're going to look at today in Luke chapter two.

1 (7m 23s):

Okay. Starting in verse 13

0 (7m 27s):

In verse 13, we read Jesus or I'm sorry. Verse 13 says someone in the crowd said to him

1 (7m 33s):

To Jesus teacher tell my

0 (7m 36s):

Brother to divide the inheritance

1 (7m 39s):

With me.

0 (7m 41s):

I just replied, man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you. So here is the scene is going on. Jesus was preaching. These crowds have thousands of people probably after he's preaching. He was actually preaching at the disciples as we saw that last week, but the crowds are, they are overhearing it. This man comes up. This is kind of like after the, the the message is done. Somebody's comes up to the speaker afterwards and said, Hey, could you tell my brother to divide up our estate? So they're looking at Jesus because he's a rabbi rabbis in that day, often played these legal roles of being the executor and arbiter of an estate to help when there was some disagreement about how that should happen. And probably this means that, that this guy's brother wasn't doing things, right?

0 (8m 24s):

So it would have been more than likely that it was the older brother who was supposed to divide the estate. And in those days, what happened was the older brother. Yes, we would have control of the state, but he was supposed to keep it say if there's two brothers that he would take two thirds of the estate and then his younger brother would get one third. So if this guy is probably one of the younger brothers, he's like, Hey, this my older brother, isn't giving me my fair share. He's not getting what's expected in their culture. So he's gone to the rabbi because, Hey, this is even in God's word that that's how the estate is supposed to be divided. Come. I'm not getting my fair share. And that's the issue that Jesus is called upon to divide between. And what does he say? He's like, why are you asking me?

0 (9m 6s):

And I'm not the executor. I'm not an arbiter. That's not what I'm supposed to do. That's not my job. Now. Some of you would have had the poor fortune of being an executor of someone's estate, but I haven't ever done that, but I have been around a lot of funerals. Okay. I do. I'm not a lot of funerals in my nine years is a pastor. And it seems like at every single one, almost that there is some argument or fight.

1 (9m 33s):

And what about the estate?

0 (9m 36s):

It is, it happens to every time that I've seen this, I've got a front row seat to see, and I have no bone to pick. Nobody's given me any money. So I just get to witness what's going on. And people will come up to me like they did the Jesus and they'll say stuff like

1 (9m 47s):

I was there at the end. I

0 (9m 49s):

Was serving dad. I was there cleaning up after he, you know, you know what? The bed I, I took care of all of that. I was there for months serving him. I had to quit my job or put it on hold. I wasn't making any money. I was there serving him. I was a nurse. I should get more of the estate and somebody else will come up and say, well, dad had, had wanted it completely divided evenly. So we are going to do it evenly. And there's these tensions brewing behind the scenes because there's always someone who thinks I worked harder. And another person says, well, it has to be fair. Or I was dad's favorite, or you are dad's favorite is not fair. And they're trying to divide up the state this way. And it causes the fights. Anybody experienced one of those, I know people who were in lawsuits for over a decade after someone in their family had died.

0 (10m 33s):

And after all the lawyer's fees are paid, there's hardly any money left.

1 (10m 38s):

I've seen it.

0 (10m 39s):

I've seen families that it seemed like things were okay, then dad dies, or mom dies. There's this money left. And all of a sudden the family cannot stand each other ever again. They will never be in the same room,

1 (10m 49s):

The hate each other. This is what happens.

0 (10m 52s):

So I could give a lesson here right now that you need to prepare your will right now, if, if you're, you know, take care of that right now, just make it abundantly clear. But that's not what I'm teaching on. That's not even what Jesus is teaching on the point is that people fight over this stuff. 'cause we fight over money. Why?

1 (11m 7s):

Because we want to be Rich okay.

0 (11m 9s):

This man wanted to at least have his fair share, right? I mean, I've seen people fight over just like a few thousand

1 (11m 15s):

Dollars families completely divided. And then

0 (11m 21s):

That's, what's going on here in. Jesus says, why am I supposed to do this? It's not my job. But then Jesus addresses this situation in verse six, or I'm sorry. In verse 15, he says, then he said to them, so he's addressing this man. Now he's talking to perhaps to the disciples perhaps to the whole crowd, he says, watch out, be on your guard against all kinds of

1 (11m 44s):

Greed. Hmm.

0 (11m 47s):

Life does not consist in an abundance

1 (11m 50s):

Of possessions. Is he the problem with this

0 (11m 54s):

Man? The real reason, the problem with all of us when we desire to be rich as greed

1 (11m 59s):

Is that this

0 (11m 60s):

Greed, and we're going to talk about this, this desire, that's entangled in our heart of greed. And it's something that we need to watch out for it to be on our guard. For, as we've seen throughout this series,

Jesus is continuing to give these warnings, watch out beyond your guard because our hearts naturally get entangled

1 (12m 18s):

In these desires, greed.

0 (12m 21s):

I was just in there. And if you're not proactively watching out for it is going to entangle your heart. So we've seen throughout this series, these different desires of our heart get tangled in there. And it does happen naturally last week after I gave my message and talked about putting up my Christmas lights and you know, every year you have to untangle the lights. Cause it just like naturally happens. Right? So there is a guy in our church Matt bolt. You recognize him cause he's six, eight. And he self described the same size as Rob Gronkowski. Okay. He was on my football team because yeah, I have a smart So Matt Wolf he is also a statistic student at CU Denver. So after the message last week, he messaged me and sent me an article and I thought it was a really fascinating in, and it was entitled.

0 (13m 10s):

It, it was entitled the mathematical formula that causes your headphones to tangle.

1 (13m 15s):

Isn't that interesting? Okay.

0 (13m 17s):

So I'm a physicist studied this there's two guys. And they were like, how come it is that even if you put it in that fancy box, that Apple used to give you with your iPhone and you put your headphones in there, it still gets tangled. Why is that? So they studied it. And what they found was that

1 (13m 31s):

It's physics, okay. It's just

0 (13m 33s):

Naturally going to happen. And it, it, there, they came up with a formula that's that has to do with the length of the cord and the agitation, the cord experiences, and what they found really fascinating. If the cord is a foot and a half or shorter, it almost never will tangle,

1 (13m 51s):

But if it gets

0 (13m 52s):



Over a foot and a half, then it starts to tingle. And in fact, they came up with a graph as they charted this out all the way up to six feet long, this is in meters. But if you go up to six feet, then it doesn't really matter how long the cord is. It, it still has a, about a 50% likelihood of being tangled, no matter how good of a job you do wrapping that cord together. Interesting. Right? So it's not just me, it's not that I'm you, you know, you're just a terrible organizer and bad with cords. Okay? You see that proportion. That is interesting. This was their conclusion at the, the end of this paper, they said the research shows that your earphones are indeed spontaneously nodding themselves. The knots really do form as a matter of physics, not because of your personal lack of meekness that made me feel

1 (14m 38s):

Better. It's physics. And I think in the US

0 (14m 42s):

The same way that our headphone cords just naturally get tangled up together. And so too are the chords for our lights in the same way our hearts get tangled up and these desires

1 (14m 52s):

Or the desire to be

0 (14m 53s):

Rich that we're looking at today or how it just gets entangled in it that we have to be on our guard for these things. And that's what this series is about. Watch out, be on your guard. You're tangled up. It's time to get on tangled and Jesus is going to teach us how to do it. And it's not to say don't ever think about money ever again, but it's to be rich in a different way. So Jesus is now going to tell them a little story. He begins the story in verse 16 and it says, and he told them this parable, the ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, what shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.

0 (15m 34s):

Verse 18. Then he said, this is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones. And there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, you have plenty of grain laid up for many years, take life

1 (15m 50s):

Easy, eat, drink, and be Merry.

0 (15m 55s):

But God said to him, God said to him, you fool, that's God's voice right there. You fool this very night. Your life will be demanded from you. Then you will get what you have prepared for your

1 (16m 9s):

The first 20.

0 (16m 12s):

This is how it will be. Jesus says with whoever stores up things for themselves, but it's not. Rich

1 (16m 18s):

The word of God.

0 (16m 21s):

Here's this man. He has land. And he has a great harvest in that year. The big crop he decides I'm going to build a bigger barns. I'm going to store it all there because then I could have it all for myself and then dies before he can enjoy it.

1 (16m 32s):

Or any of it. It's a fascinating story. Right?

0 (16m 37s):

And this isn't just a parable. I remember when I was in Nebraska and I went to visit this couple and yes, I later did her funeral. Okay. But at the time she was healthy and yeah, there was a little giggle right there. Okay. And I was driving there and I noticed there was a big house being built and I went to the next time in the house was finished. So I went and talked with this couple and this was out on what they call the Island in the Platte river. It really wasn't an Island, just the, the river forked around it. And then it kind of came back together and it was where, you know, people would go out there that a big build, a big mansions. And that's the word live? You Phish on the river, all that good stuff. And I asked this, a couple of them is going to see, Oh, Hey, I drove by. There's a huge house. That mansion that is getting built. Do you know the people that are moving into that?

0 (17m 19s):

They were like, Oh, okay.

1 (17m 20s):

Can we do? There was a dentist in a car.

0 (17m 24s):

And, and he had worked hard and saved up and he was going to retire and he and his wife were building this house. This is going to be their retirement home that they are going to live on for the rest of their days. But before he could even move in, he died of an unexpected heart attack. I'm not making this up. This is not a, a, a parable of what Jesus is telling you is this actually happens. Right? It's a man had built up everything is his business. I'm sure he was working in many, many hours to build up his dental practice finally makes enough

money. He is going to retire, builds the house and dies before he can even spend one night.

1 (17m 55s):

Okay. So what happens

0 (18m 0s):

Perhaps? You've heard the story of the two men attending a funeral and they walk up to the casket, look at the, the man who's laid out there. And the first man that says that the Senate, he said,

1 (18m 10s):

Okay, so how much did he leave in a second? Man says everything. You don't take anything with you when you die. There are no hearses pulling you off, right? To take nothing with you. When you die. Leo Tolstoy, once a week,

0 (18m 33s):

We wrote a short story and it's considered one of the greatest short stories ever written. And it's entitled how much

1 (18m 42s):

The land does a man need. How much land does a man need?

0 (18m 46s):

There is this, this man in it in the story. It's the story of a man named pay home and pay home is just a very poor peasant. He hardly has anything, but he hears his, you know, his sister and his mother talking. And they're like, Oh, you know, If, if we just had some land in here, he says to himself, if I only had land

1 (19m 5s):

And if I only had land, then I wouldn't even be afraid of the devil. But the devil over here is that he's hiding behind the stove. And the Dells

0 (19m 16s):

Takes that up as a challenge, Oh, you just want more land. So the devil works it out that pay home. Work's hard. And he starts to accumulate some land of his own as a peasant. He begins working harder and then realizes that he needs more land and he buys more land and more land. And it's not enough to, to pay for his new business that he has started as the worker have all these fields. So he, he hears that in the other side of the country, there are some people in there poor, and they're just simple people and that you could get land there for cheap. So he goes there and travels there and he talks to these people and he offers them all sorts of money, but they really want hardly anything for the land

1 (19m 53s):

You have to buy. But then they make them a strange deal.

0 (19m 57s):

The, these for people living in the land, they're very simple. They say, well, we'll just take, you know, just a few of your trinkets

1 (20m 5s):

And you

0 (20m 5s):

Can have as much land as you can walk upon and Mark with a spade in one day, they said, if you go out and you walk as far as you can. And if you Mark that land with a spade, and if you come back to right here where we're meeting on the top of the Hill, by before sundown, you can have all of that land. But if you don't make it back, we'll take your money and you get no land. So pay home says, wow, what a great deal. I can get more land. So pay home starts out. He marked his route in and he's thinking about it. So he starts really early in the morning and he's walking as fast as he can at a good pace. And he's taken his spade and he's marking the land as he goes. And he keeps walking farther and farther and farther marking more and more for himself.

0 (20m 50s):

And it's, as it's getting into the afternoon, he realizes he walked a little bit farther than he had wanted to. So he starts to return back to make it to the Hill before

1 (20m 58s):

Sunset. But then

0 (20m 60s):

The sun starts to drop in the sky and he says, I'd better move quicker. So he starts picking up his pace and walks faster. And then he starts to run. He's jogging now. And he feels his heart stopped to pout in his chest. He having a hard time breathing. And he finally, as the sun is just about to set, he makes it to the base of the Hill

1 (21m 19s):

And the sun goes down. He's like, Oh no, I, I, I walked too far. But then he thinks, Oh, look at the top of the Hill though.

0 (21m 28s):

There's probably still sun up there. If I make it a little bit faster, then maybe I can make it up there before the

sun goes down. So he sprints as fast as he can. His heart pounding now runs the top of the Hill to make it there before the sun goes down. And he makes it just before the sun to send it

1 (21m 45s):

Beyond the horizon. And a man of that village are waiting for him.

0 (21m 50s):

And they cheer him on as he runs to the finish line and collapses there at the top,

1 (21m 54s):

The Hill and the man walks over to him and says, pay home. You've done it. You can have all of that land is up there. Pay home is dead blood running out his mouth. So one of the servants to pay home, picks up the spade, digs a hole and berries pay home. 'cause all of the land that he needed was six feet from his head to his heels.

0 (22m 23s):

I think the story is so fascinating because it tells us that when we try to get more land, more property, more money, more stuff, we have this greed that is a desire for more to it. It's just this desire to be rich. And yet we accumulate all that.

1 (22m 35s):

Okay. And if we can go in like that, that desire to be Rich it shows us that will, it will never be enough, but Jesus says something with this story. He says how to actually be rich.

0 (22m 50s):

He says it in a sense, you'll never be

1 (22m 52s):

You Rich till you're rich toward God. You'll never be rich till you're rich toward God. You okay?

0 (23m 1s):

We could have all of the land in the world. You could save up more money and you'll never feel like you're Rich

1 (23m 6s):

Until you rich toward God.

0 (23m 10s):

That's what the parable, this man told us. That's what that dentist that I never had a chance to meet tells us.

That's what pay home storytellers is. It's all pointing to the fact that you'll never be Rich to them.

1 (23m 19s):

You're rich toward God.

0 (23m 23s):

C the desire to be Rich in itself is not bad. It's that we're directing it towards our

1 (23m 29s):

Selves. That I can

0 (23m 31s):

Have more and more land, more property, more money, more stuff. That it's all about me. But she says, life is not about the abundance.

1 (23m 37s):

One of the things we have, you want to be Rich Jesus says you need to be rich toward God. So what does it mean

0 (23m 47s):

To be rich toward God? That's what we should be asking. Right? What does it mean to be rich toward God? Where we can pick up a couple things from this passage about that? And there's three points I want you to make. If you're taking notes, you can write these three things down. The first one is that it's not for

1 (24m 2s):

You are, it's not for you. Look at verse 21.

0 (24m 10s):

This is how it will be for whoever stores up things for them sell.

1 (24m 16s):

But it is not rich toward God

0 (24m 17s):

Throughout the whole story. This man says, he's talking to himself. You can re read it. It keeps saying to myself, talking to himself, and he says this to himself. When he's storing up money for himself. And he builds these barns for himself, what Jesus is saying is the first offer that you need to realize it's not for

1 (24m 33s):

You. The stuff

0 (24m 35s):

That you have, the money you make, it's never for you. You say that out loud. It's not for you. Turn to the person next to you and say, It okay. Type that in online. It's not for you type in someone's name online and say, it's not for you. Okay?

1 (24m 48s):

Okay. That's not for you. So here's

0 (24m 53s):

The thing that we always feel like we need more,

1 (24m 56s):

But we don't.

0 (24m 58s):

If he's six, eight. The Bible actually tells us how much we need. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be

1 (25m 6s):

Okay. Content God wants to provide for our needs, but our needs are food and clothing, not even shelter. Okay? Just a second.

0 (25m 17s):

The food to eat for that day. Give us today, my daily bread and a close. So I can be protected from the elements

1 (25m 24s):

And not a whole

0 (25m 25s):

Wardrobe either. Does it just closed the cover of your body for that day?

1 (25m 29s):

That's enough

0 (25m 31s):

Is that we can be content because everything above that means we are,

1 (25m 34s):

And we are Rich

0 (25m 37s):

And, and we are the wealthiest people in the history

1 (25m 39s):

Of the world here on our part in our country. We are the wealthiest people in the history of the world.

0 (25m 48s):

I don't know if you saw this story a couple of months back, there was a very wealthy man, a billionaire named Chuck Feeney and Chuck Feeney was the guy who started the duty free shops, duty free shops. And because he started that, he grew his wealth to 8 billion.

1 (26m 5s):

Okay.

0 (26m 6s):

He was a man who had one pair of shoes. Didn't even own his own home, but decided he wanted to spend the rest of his life giving away his money. So this year after 37 years of giving away money, he gave away all of his \$8 billion

1 (26m 22s):

Because it wasn't for him. It wasn't for him.

0 (26m 25s):

I mean, you could give away all the money cause it wasn't for him. I, I think that's amazing

1 (26m 29s):

That he did that and

0 (26m 31s):

We need to learn to do this because it's not gonna be ours. Anyways. We're not taking anything with us. Corrie 10 boom. Once said that, hold everything. She said, hold everything in your hands. Lightly. Otherwise hurts. When God pries your fingers open. That's not for you. Or

1 (26m 50s):

Some of



0 (26m 51s):

You were saying, what, what does that mean? I shouldn't save. I shouldn't invest.

1 (26m 56s):

Well, Proverbs 13,

0 (26m 57s):

22 says a good person leaves an inheritance for his grandchildren. Okay. So for two generations. They're should be saving him. Right? That's the principle on the Proverbs. But even there, we see what you're saving up and investing. It's not

1 (27m 11s):

Okay. So yes, you want your wealth to grow, but even if you're doing it, it's not for you. It's for someone else.

0 (27m 21s):

So that's the first point to be rich toward God means it's not for you. The second thing is that it's for God

1 (27m 28s):

First. It's not for you. And it's for God. First Proverbs three, nine. Okay.

0 (27m 35s):

Proverbs three nine says honor the Lord by giving him your money. And the first part of all of these,

1 (27m 42s):

The crops. So this means to you

0 (27m 45s):

The whole season that you've been working in farming the land, the first fruits, the first of your crops. That means before you take anything for yourself, you're giving back to God giving first to God. And that's why we teach here that you give first, save second and leave off the record

1 (28m 3s):

We give to God first because it's for God first.

0 (28m 8s):

And, and this is why we want to encourage you guys to be generous here. So I one of our core values. Here is generous living because generosity is the heart of God. And it's the heart that God wants for us to give to God first. That's why we encourage everyone to give first out of whatever their income is because you are

the wealthiest people in the world. If you make \$3,000 a year, you are in the upper half of the world. If you make 30,000 a year, you're in the upper 5%.

1 (28m 37s):

Okay? So

0 (28m 38s):

Even if you're here on a fixed income, God wants you to give to him first on our God first. And that's why we've even created the generosity team. Oh, that sounds good. It doesn't have it. The generosity team were saying, Hey, we want you to take that step first. And for some people that are, are new to giving that up with our generosity team, we're saying, Hey, give \$25 a week or a, a a hundred dollars a month. If you do that here in our church, you are a part of our generosity team. We love people that are in the generosity team, because they're saying, Hey, I'm going to take that step toward generosity. Take that ship's step to our generosity. And some of you are like, well, I'm already there. Then you're taking need to take the step towards tithing that your giving a portion, even 10%, coz that's a typo, 10% of your income to God first.

0 (29m 20s):

And I hope that all of us will journey there in our faith, because this is a matter of faith.

1 (29m 25s):

You don't trust God. If you don't trust him with your money, you don't trust God.

0 (29m 31s):

And unless you trust him with your money, that's just the reality. It's a part of our faith. That's how we step out and say, God, I'm going to trust you to take care of the rest by just giving you a portion of what you've given me.

1 (29m 42s):

I can live off the rest

0 (29m 45s):

One. It's not for you. Two it's for God. First and three

1 (29m 50s):

It's for others to it's for others as well. This is a part,

0 (29m 56s):

A lot of what it means to give to God. But, but this is kind of, so this is could be a sub-point of 0.2, because in Hebrews 13, 16, it says, don't forget to do good and to share what you have, because God is pleased with

these kinds of sacrifices. When you share with others, when you give to others, what you have, you're honoring God. It's a sacrifice to God. Isn't that interesting. God is pleased when you give to others,

1 (30m 21s):

When you're generous

0 (30m 22s):

With other people around you. So its not just hiding

1 (30m 24s):

The church is given to others as well. Okay?

0 (30m 28s):

John Maxwell tells a story about his friend, James Crocker and James Crocker was a very successful guy who started his own business. He was doing very well as an entrepreneur and he attended a big, you know, one of those big galas and then, you know, give So he and his wife gave way more money than they should've that day. Right? If you've ever been to some of those things, he buy the plate that you buy the table, you buy the stuff you the auction. So he gives away all this money and he and his wife were talking afterwards. She says, honey, do you think we gave away too much money? And he says, definitely not.

1 (30m 59s):

Okay. Because he remembered that one day he went fishing with some buddies, for some lobsters.

0 (31m 6s):

And after they went lobster fishing, he came back with 125 lobsters.

1 (31m 11s):

That's pretty impressive, right?

0 (31m 13s):

125 lobsters. And he's like, this is going to be enough lobsters that I can have for the whole year. So he put them all in his freezer, out in his garage and he was excited. But then his good buddy, Jeff came over later that day and he said, Jeff, let me give you one of my lobsters. So he pulled it out of the freezer and gave jet Jeff this lobster and it made him feel really good. And he says, I've got a a hundred and twenty-five or 124 and now I can get a few more away. So he starts giving away these lobsters too at a time three at a time to families at the end of the week, he realizes he only has three lobsters

1 (31m 41s):

Left and he's like, Oh, okay,

0 (31m 43s):

That's good. So so that weekend he goes to, to get some of these lobsters out of the freezer

1 (31m 48s):

And it stinks. It just smells. Something just putrid

0 (31m 52s):

Is that the electricity had gone out in his garage. His freezer shut down in everything in there

1 (31m 57s):

Is ruined. And he realized I'm, So

0 (32m 1s):

Happy that I gave away a 122 lobster.

1 (32m 5s):

Okay. Because these three, I kept for myself or gone.

0 (32m 10s):

And that's why he realized it's good to be more generous than you think you can.

1 (32m 13s):

And the others, because its not for me. It's for God first. And it's for others to that's what we do

0 (32m 23s):

Supposed to learn about what it means to be rich toward God. 'cause. If we learn to do that here and now we will be Rich where other people will keep striving and wanting more and building up their wealth and they'll never have enough. And they'll rub shoulders with people who make more money than them. And they'll never feel Rich we we'll be

1 (32m 41s):

'cause

2 (32m 42s):

We have given away more. We have been generous

1 (32m 45s):

It's to be rich toward God, if you really want to be rich because you'll never be rich till you're rich toward God.

2 (32m 54s):

So I want to encourage you to think about that. I know we had a message on giving a, just a couple of months ago, but this has God's word. In fact, Jesus talked about giving the, you know, more than anybody else. I think one, six of all his parables are about money. One third of all the things he said, every single verse in the first three gospels are about money. That's impressive. Right? Jesus talked about money because money is where a heart it is. Right? And we want to have this desire to be rich, but in order to untangle our heart's for that, that greed that's in there, that's leading us astray.

1 (33m 24s):

We've got to be rich toward God.

2 (33m 26s):

So I went to encourage you to do that. And, and the biggest reason we need to do that,

1 (33m 29s):

It is because God is Rich toward us. He is generous towards the end.

2 (33m 34s):

He is so generous that he gave his one and only son

1 (33m 38s):

To us to die on a cross

2 (33m 40s):

In our place and forgive us of our sins. In fact, in second Corinthians eight, nine, we read for you. No, the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that though he was rich yet for your sakes. He became poor that through his poverty, you might be, Rich see, God wants you to be rich. And that's what he gave his own son. His only son to die in a cross for you. And if God has given us that, if he has been willing to be generous with us, we will be generous with him in return because you'll never be rich until you rich toward God. So I encourage you today. And as a step of obedience says, as a response to this message, I wanna encourage you to give it, to encourage you, to get that's why we are gonna have our time have giving right now.

2 (34m 24s):

And as the band is playing, but you go right now too arise. [denver.com/give](https://denver.com/give). Or if you're here in person, pull out your phones and do the same thing. I'm serious. Get your phones out. Let's give it. If you haven't given to God at all, I want you to be a part of our generosity team set up that recurring giving \$25 a week or a hundred dollars a month to become a part of our generosity team. If you're here in and you've done that maybe it's time for you to be tight for now, especially as we're coming into this new year, new budget start

tithing. It's time to start thinking about that. But if you're saying, Hey, I want to give towards others while we are going to do something special. This holiday season, we've already talked about the hope suite hope box is this delivering hope to every home that we're trying to do that.

2 (35m 8s):

In addition to that, we are going to be unveiling something next week, about how we're going to be helping some immigrant families that are coming here with nothing. And we're going to be doing that as a church. So for both of those things, if you go to our website and to our gift tab and you click delivering hope that you want to give money to delivering hope, all that money is going to go to this holiday season to deliver hope to families in our area. So I encourage you guys to do that as well. If you just say, Hey, I'm going to be extra Rich to somebody, this, this holiday season. I want to get my heart on an untangled from this greed that has been there. I want to give back to God and that's how we're going to respond today in faith. So take, take a few moments to do that. Why would you just please, please bow your heads, close your eyes right now.

2 (35m 54s):

God, you have given to us first, you have given us your own son to us. The Jesus though, he was rich. He became poor for him or six that we might become Rich Lord God. I pray that we would change our mindset. Not that we need to stop wanting to be rich, but that we wanna be Rich toward you. And that we would know deep down that we'll never be Rich to a Rich towards the Q and help us to be the most generous people on the face of the planet. That we would be a church that lives out generous, living that with our times, talents and treasures. We gladly to get them to serve God and to serve others. And I thank you for all the generous men and women in our church. I thank you for the family who just this last month gave \$10,000 to the raise the roof on Lord.

2 (36m 38s):

God. I'm so grateful for them. And I pray that you'd bless them through it, that they would know that they are Rich Lord for all of us, as we give that you would help us know that we are rich and that we'd find joy because it is more blessed to give and then to receive. Now, if you're here today and you realize that you have never accepted God's gift of his son, but you're ready to do that because you know, Hey, I want to follow Jesus. I want to make him my Lord and savior. I just want you to say this prayer after me. If we can put this pair up there, I'm going to say this pair. You can repeat it after me. You are God, thank you for loving me. I am a sinner. I need a savior.

2 (37m 19s):

Save me, forgive me, make me new. I declare that Jesus is Lord. Fill me with your Holy spirit. Jesus. I believe you died for me so I could live for you or help me to follow you for the rest of my life. And then now if he made that decision for the first time and said that prayer go to [arise, denver.com/follow](https://denver.com/follow) in, fill out that form. I would love to connect with you and the most amazing decision you have made in your life. Now lets just say a prayer. As we give to God, Lord God, for all of us, whether we made that decision with the first

time to follow you or, or work to stepping out in faith, even more to be generous with our time talents and treasures, I pray that you would bless us through it, that we would know truly that it is more blessed than to give and receive.

2 (38m 11s):

And right now we want to offer up the words of our mouth to, as we sing and take these words, take our gifts and multiply them in Jesus name. Amen.