

“The Myth Of More”
Ecclesiastes 4:7-12, 5:8-6:6
Sermon Series: “Unsatisfied”

Introduction: Actress Lori Loughlin was sentenced to two months in federal prison for her role in the college admissions scandal. She will serve two years of supervised release during which she must perform 100 hours of community service and pay a fine of \$150,000. Her husband, and co-defendant, Massimo Giannulli, received five months in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and 250 hours of community service.

During the hearings, US District Judge Nathaniel Gorton addressed both defendants: “Here you are an admired, successful, professional actor with a long-lasting marriage, two apparently healthy, resilient children, more money than you could possibly need, a beautiful home in sunny Southern California – a fairy tale life. Yet you stand before me a convicted felon. And for what? **For the inexplicable desire to grasp even more.**”

-Napoleon said, “I am surrounded by priests who repeat incessantly that their kingdom is not of this world and ye the lay their hands on everything they can get.”

-Background of Solomon

-“under the sun” (10:19) vs. “over the sun”

-the point is not how much money we have but this is about heart attitude; money and things are morally neutral in and of themselves

Main Idea: Let’s not waste our lives pursuing the myth that more money will bring more satisfaction.

Why is this idea a myth?

1. Relationships are more important than money (4:7-12).

2. The love of money prompts injustice (5:8-9).

3. Money cannot fill us up on the inside (5:10, 6:1-6).

4. Money can bring troubles (5:11-13).

According to the National Endowment for Financial Education, about 70 **percent** of people who win a **lottery** or receive a large windfall **go bankrupt** within a few years.

5. We cannot take our money with us when we die (5:14-17, see also 1 Timothy 6:7).

Colonel Sanders said, “There's no reason to be the richest man in the cemetery.” Ed Young Jr. said, “Want to know your net worth? Simply add up everything money can't buy and death can't take away.”

What is the antidote to this according to Jesus (Luke 12:13-34)?

- 1. Jesus warns us against coveting because life does not consist in the abundance of the things we possess (v. 15).**
- 2. Jesus teaches us to:**
 - A. Trust God (v. 22-30).**
 - B. Put God first (v. 31-32).**
 - C. Be generous and live for heavenly treasure instead of earthly treasure (v. 33-34).**

Matthew 19:16-22

- 1. Jesus, you are God.**
- 2. Jesus, I'm not good enough. I need your grace.**
- 3. Jesus, I give up control. I will follow You.** Money is a great servant but a terrible master.