Sermon Notes

**“Wealth and Riches”**

John 15:1–17

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

**How to abide in Christ through our wealth and riches?**

1. Start \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and progress with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Zechariah 4:10

10 Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Work towards a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. To become a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 6:19–21

1. You \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 9:6–7

1. Get out \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Avoid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ challenge.
4. Conduct a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Set limits on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ expenses.
6. Prepare for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Questions for discussion:

1. Which of Jeff’s suggestions did you find most helpful and why?
2. Many Christians struggle to live within their means, never mind giving generously or saving wisely. What do you think are the major stumbling blocks that keep Christians in this state of financial chaos?
3. What is the wisest financial advice you’ve ever received?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. Is your giving to the Church something you do wholeheartedly, indifferently, or grudgingly?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6 and Matthew 6:4. What do both Paul and Jesus emphasize between our giving to the Lord and the Lord's giving to us?