



1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

PROVERBS 3:27 (THE MESSAGE)

Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God's hand for that person. Don't tell your neighbour "Maybe some other time" or "Try me tomorrow" when the money's right there in your pocket.

NOTE TO LEADERS

Through our "Be Rich" series, we aim to flood our community with random acts of kindness and generosity. We would love to hear your stories of this outworking - share them with us at hello@cityhill.co.za

START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message?
2. Does anyone have any stories of random acts of kindness to share from the last week?

START THINKING

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:18. How does this verse challenge you? Which of the 4 actions that Paul commands in this verse stands out to you the most and why?
2. Read Proverbs 3:27 (The Message). What are some of the excuses we use when it comes to doing good and being generous?

START SHARING

1. Who would you consider a generous person? What traits or values do you notice as they serve others? How would you like to grow in being generous to others?
2. What do you feel God is asking you to do in response to Sunday's message? What is your next step?

START PRAYING

Lord God, thank you for your incredible generosity. Help is to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous, and willing to share. May our acts of kindness and generosity not be in vain, but may we represent Your love, kindness and generosity by being Your hands and feet here on earth.

START DOING

Consider someone you know who would benefit from your generosity. How will you demonstrate generosity to that person this week?



This week, in part 2 of our "Be Rich" series, Dusty shared about "being rich"...

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Are we the rich?

- 9% of the world's population lives on less than \$1.90 per day (less than R1,000 per month).
- 11% of the world's population suffers from severe food shortages (1 in 8 people go to be hungry every night).
- 14% of the world's population (1 billion people) can not read or write their name (economic impact on them).
- 26% of the world's population does not have access to safe drinking water.
- 40% (3 billion people) live on less than \$2.50 per day (R1,300 per month).
- 80% of the world's population lives on less than \$10 per day. If you earn more than R5,190 per month, you are in the world's richest 20% of the population
- Only 18% of the world's population own a car - if you drove here today, you're in the wealthiest 18% of the world's population.
- UNICEF stats indicate that 25 000 children die every day around the world due to poverty (2 children die every 7 seconds).

These stats show that when Paul wrote, command those who are rich in this present world, he was speaking to us - we are the rich!

Wealth and being rich is an issue of perspective - we can all find someone richer than us and someone poorer than us.

Wealth and riches on earth are perishable, and in heaven, they mean nothing (in Revelation 21:21, we read that the streets are made of gold). But "Being rich" isn't about having more. It's about doing more with what you have, while you still can, here on earth.

Three lessons we learn from 1 Timothy 6:18:

1. "Bing rich" starts in the heart

18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

Do good, be rich in good deeds, be generous - these things hinge on a willingness to share. And willingness starts in the heart. The definition of willingness is: ready, eager or prepared to do something. But just because you can, doesn't mean you are ready/prepared to.

Willingness comes with practice and consistency. Giving is like flexing a muscle - the more you exercise it, the stronger it gets. Timothy commands us to do good, be rich in good deeds, be generous, and be willing to share, i.e. flex that giving muscle as much as possible!

And this verse is challenging because Paul isn't suggesting we do it but commanding us to! It's something we have to be intentional about.

2. "Being rich" has a ripple effect of impact and influence.

The act of good deeds and generosity is like throwing a pebble into a pond and watching the ripple effect. Some of those ripples you can see and others you can't.

John 3:16 shows us the generosity of Jesus "jumping into the pond of this world" - the ripples affect our lives greatly! He then takes our lives and "throws us into the pond" of other people's lives!

People who experience your acts of generosity and good deeds may end up experiencing God's love in ways like no other!

Prayer is a powerful tool, but God has chosen us to not just pray for others but to be rich in good deeds causing ripples of love, change, and impact in people's lives!

Our hope for this series is that we will do more, flooding our communities with random acts of kindness and good deeds.

3. "Being rich" is about good deeds

"to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous"

This is far more than just money! it says, 'do good, be rich in good deeds', not "give money". This becomes challenging for us if we've hidden behind the idea of not having extra money.

Doing good includes your enemies: *35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Luke 6:35*

Money doesn't change people's lives; people do. Money can make a difference in situations, but good deeds truly change people.

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16

So what does this look like practically?

- Check on someone - even a message or phone call
- Visit/Invite someone who is lonely
- Serve someone (people in need, orphans, widows, single parents)
- Treat someone who just needs a break, e.g. buy them a coffee
- Encourage someone (we all need courage)
- Bless someone, e.g. with a meal or movie tickets - it doesn't always need to be a need, sometimes just needs to be a blessing!
- Open doors for someone (e.g. connect them with others that could help with employment or studies)

The Message Bible sums it up beautifully in Proverbs 3:27: *Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God's hand for that person. Don't tell your neighbour "Maybe some other time" or "Try me tomorrow" when the money's right there in your pocket.*

We are the rich, and we have the power to act. And acts of kindness can really change lives and change a community.