

Sermon – Friday 9 April, 2010
You are RICH – Defeating the Spirit of Poverty

Welcome:

Worship:

- I'm A Believer
- My Redeemer Lives
- You Are Amazing
- What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Communion: Grace Ricks

- Once Again

Announcements:

- Markets Sunday – Come See Our Stall
- April 30 – BBQ & Video Night
- Ferdi – Next Week – Africa Trip
- Prayer Meeting @ Schools Tue/Thur
- Vending Machine - \$500 needed to stock & ship
- Newsletter Distribution – Help Needed

Sermon:

Let Me Tell You A Story:

- There was once a man who loved paintings, and he spent his entire life collecting rare and precious pieces of artwork
- During the course of his lifetime he collected 100's and stored them away safely in his air conditioned cellar.
- He grew old and passed away, and left everything to his nephew (Andrew) who was only 18.
- His nephew moved into his uncles home.
- After a while his nephew decided to decorate the house, and after exploring the cellar found all these neat paintings.
- Without realising that these paintings were old, precious and very valuable, he decorated his house and walls with the fabulous pictures.
- He had Monet, Van Gogh and others.

Everyday He Was Staring at Wealth:

- Every morning this young man would wake up and see on his bedroom wall a painting that looked like this – show picture (Mona Lisa)
- Had he realised it, he was fabulously wealthy in the millions of dollars – but he didn't know much about his paintings to know that.

One Day

- One day he was approached by a friend who was in a terrible predicament. He was trying to raise support for a big hospital bill coming up and asked if there was any money.
- Andrew felt his heart tugged and wanted to help but after trying to figure out how, he replied "I don't have any money" I wish I was able to help but I'm just a poor man

You Are The Nephew in The Story

- You are wealthy – all around you is spiritual wealth.

Ephesians 3:14-21

- V 16 “out of His glorious riches”
- V20 “to him who is able to do more that we can ask or imagine.”
- We have a God who is unlimited – and makes Himself available to us.
- It’s better than having Bill Gates for a Dad

But It Doesn’t Sound Right – And You’re Not Excited

- Frankly – Im not that excited either
- We still don’t SEE IT.

The Devil Steals the Knowledge of It From US

- The evil one doesn’t want us to see what opportunity we have
- Show YouTube Video about Lottery Winner who was jibbed by the clerk.

<http://www.zimbio.com/Willis+Willis/video/DJ4bG-2BLHT/Willis+Willis+Video+Playlist>

Summarise So Far:

- We are surrounded by Fabulous Wealth but we don’t see it
- We don’t see it because the Devil steals the knowledge from us – blinds us
- If we could awaken ourselves to see this – everything would change.

Imagine:

- Some people say money wouldn’t change them
- But imagine if you went home and there was \$1million sitting on your bed at home.
- What would you do with this large amount of money
- Show Youtube Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kljOxKynG0E&feature=related>

God has Also Put Ideas in People’s Minds

- Things he wants to see accomplished for His kingdom
- But we don’t see them achieved
- Because we think we are poor
- Becuase we think that – we do so little, and don’t use what we have.

What is this Condition Called?

- It’s a spiritual disease called “the spirit of poverty”
- It’s where our eyes on not on God as our supplier and we think “if only we had this” and we start to explain to ourselves why we can’t do anything
- The devil has stolen our lottery.

In Africa

- The spirit of poverty works there by telling them to ask “rich pastors” for handouts in western countries.
- But in Asutralia, the spirit of poverty happens by us not praying, not trusting, not trying things, and not giving when we have a little to give.

This Sermon is a Call to Return to Prayer & Return to Generosity

- Our church used to have offerings in excess of \$400 weekly
- Our average offering is now under \$100
- People have been influenced by the spirit of poverty

Return to Prayer:

- Prayer is a source of everything we need – it is wealth.
- Read the “words of what a friend we have in Jesus”

What a Friend we Have in Jesus:

*What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.*

Willis Eventually got His Money

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeJSMA8x7W0&feature=channel>

Conclusion

- You can never be all you are meant to be
- If you don't overcome the spirit of poverty
- You need to find a place of generosity
- You need to return to prayer
- God will meet you in those places.