

Stay Rich 2

Rich – Series

Ps. Richard Chogo – 13th August 2017

Sermon Notes



If you're joining us for the first time or you haven't been here in a long time, we're in a brand new series called Be Rich. Everywhere you go there are people telling you how to get rich but this series is about how to be rich. When you become rich, we want you to be good at it cause most rich people aren't good at it.

So now, last week if you weren't here, we discovered that most of us are richer than we thought, but like most rich people, we suffer from the side effects of wealth, which are denial and discontentment. These side effects cause us to suffer from an affliction of the rich called **hope-migration**. Your hope begins to migrate from God to money, from something that is reliable to something that is unreliable, from something that is eternal to something that passes away. And so we made a declaration of freedom that has the potential to set our lives free from hope-migration and from the power of money over us, 'I will not place my hope in riches, but in the One who richly provides.'

So today, we're going to pick up where we left off in [1Tim6:17-19](#) – where we found a specific instruction for rich people, written by Paul, who wrote much of the New Testament, to his apprentice Timothy. Let's read it again till where we reached last week and then we'll continue from there. READ

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... V.17 [that's what we talked about last time – in other words, why would you put your hope in the provision when you can put your trust in the Provider?]"

So we left off at this question, how do we **practically** put our trust in the **Provider** and not the **provision**? How do we ensure that our hope doesn't migrate? And if our hope has already migrated, how do we take it back? That's what Paul moves us on to next... here's how it happens, v.18

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

Now this is interesting, he doesn't command them to do good deeds and be generous in the average way because all Christians have been commanded to do good and be generous; poor Christians, middle income, wealthy people – every follower of Christ is expected to do good and be generous. He's speaking specifically to rich people and he's saying, 'hey, you need to go one step further. Because the more you have been blest and the more you have, the more opportunity you have to do more good and to be generous than the average person.'(to him whom much is given much is required...)

Now this is completely counter-cultural. Because generally the more money you have, the more time and opportunity you have to enjoy life and do things for yourself. Now there's nothing wrong with

enjoying yourself and having hobbies and those kinds of things. But Paul's warning to rich people is that they should not waste the extra opportunity to do good that is provided by what they have...

For some of us the place of earning more does not just come with more resources at your disposal it also comes with more time....and we can misuse both the time and the resources, I guess that is why Apostle Paul issues a stern warning.....

Last week I shared that the highest paid 1% of the world earn an average household income of 7.6M UGX per month and the highest paid 10% earn an average household income of 2.6M UGX. I suspect that our definition of exactly who is rich was shaken for many of us! Let me give you another definition of a rich person that I've come to see. Rich people have time! How many here work 5 or 6 days a week in order to have enough money to provide food, clothing and shelter to you and your family for 7 days?

Did you know that that is not the case for most people in the world? In many parts of the world including in our own city, people open their business all of Sunday and even on public holidays. Why? Because they live 'from hand to mouth'. If they don't work every day, then they don't eat every day! Even the children have to chip in! Some of you are like me you've got 3/4/5 or even 6 dependents in your household and only 1 or 2(me and my wife) of them have to work 5 days to provide enough food for the entire family for the entire week as well as to put aside something for the future. Most of our kids don't have to work to bring in an income so that they can eat and go to school.

If you work 60 hours a week (10 hour days for 6 days), and sleep 8 hours a night (which is a lot!) you still have 52 hours a week left over to do anything you want to. 52hours! Most of the people around the world don't have that much time! Now again just like last week, nobody stood up and said unbelievable! I had no idea how wealthy I was because we just take it for granted! 52hours but you say Pastor I'm busy! I know I'm busy too!

The point that Apostle Paul is trying to push isthose of us who have more money & time than others, **have more responsibility(responsibility to do good!)**

Paul says I want you to be rich (not average) in good deeds because the more you have, the more opportunity you have to do **more** for **more people**.

Paul says, 'Command them to do good to be rich in good deeds and to be generous and willing to share.' Now why would he tell rich people to be generous and to be willing to share? The truth is that 2000 years ago, just like today in most parts of the world, ***the more money a person made the less generous they became!*** And the reason like we said last week is, when you begin to accumulate wealth, the assumption is I have to save my way to safety and the temptation is to hoard so that you end up consuming a much higher percentage than when you were not rich/didn't have the promotion. It's been shown that the larger an organization, the higher % of its resources are used internally, just to run itself. The same is true of us, **the more we earn, the more we tend to hold back for our own consumption.** But Paul says the best cure for hope migration is to 'be rich in good deeds and to be generous and willing to share'.

But there's a catch! Now what I'm about to say next is extremely important. I promise you, I'm not saying this just because Mavuno needs more money.... I truly believe that God will provide for our needs as a church through those who choose to give. I don't want you to shut me out because you think it's your money I'm after; in fact even if you never give anything to this church, I still hope you will apply this truth wherever you find yourself because it's a powerful truth that could transform your life forever.

Here it is - ***it's not the amount you give away but the percentage that counts.*** The surprising thing is that God is not impressed by amounts! There's one particular story in the bible when someone gave so much that Jesus was ***completely impressed.*** One day, he and his boys were in the temple and he's watching people give. In the temple they way they gave is they didn't pass an offering bag. As you went into the door or went out of the door, you put money in a jar or some kind of container as you came in and as you left. I find it fascinating that Jesus was actually watching how much people were putting into the offering basket. I mean that feels kind of intrusive, doesn't it! But anyway, he's interested; he's watching people put money in and something big happens so that he tells his guys 'you need to see this!' Luke 21:1-4 says, 'As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."'

It's not the amount you give away but the percentage that counts!

Many well-dressed, rich people threw in impressively large amounts. But this poor widow came, with threadbare clothes that had been worn too often, and she put in 2 very small copper coins. These copper coins were the smallest amount of currency in circulation in Palestine. The amount was so small that it was practically insignificant! ***But that's all she had,*** and what Jesus said in response gives us an extraordinary insight into how God views our wealth.

Listen to what he said, calling his disciples who are also watching to him, he says, 'Truly I tell you.. this poor widow has put in more' let's say that together, more, let's say that again with more conviction - more. I don't want you to ever forget that. This poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.

Okay but what that guy put in 300k UGX? Well, her two pieces of copper were more than 300k. What about the guy who put in 3M UGX? Her two pieces of copper were more than 3M UGX. What about the guy who put in the logbook for his car? Her two pieces of copper were more than that car. Now how could it be more?

I believe Jesus would say, ***it's not the amount you give away but the percentage that counts!***

The rich people gave huge amounts while the poor widow gave an insignificant amount. But the rich people gave what they could easily live without, while the poor widow gave 100% of what she had.

Here's what Jesus is preaching, here's what the apostle Paul is saying, and here's what those of us who hope to be rich or already are rich but don't know it need to understand... this is huge, ok? Rich people should not only give *larger sums* but *higher percentages*. That's Paul's point. He's saying I want you to be rich (not average) in good deeds, generosity and willingness to share.

One of the best things you can ever do for yourself if you are venturing into business...or anticipating a promotion or a new job...or even getting married with the possibility of an increased combined income...PRE-DETERMINED the percentages you are going to live on and those you are going to give and save. Believe me 5yrs from now you'll thank me for this advice.

Most people don't pre-decide a percentage to give; they give spontaneously or emotionally. I see a poor child begging in traffic; I reach down to see if I have any coins. I go to a pre-wedding fund-raising and just before I give, I see what someone else has given and I feel embarrassed and reach for more. I go to church and the offering bag comes and I fish in my pocket for what's there. But here's the problem with that approach; **IF YOU DON'T GIVE A PERCENTAGE, YOU'LL ONLY GIVE LEFT OVERS!** You give like average people. So Paul says to Timothy, tell those rich people 'don't impress yourself with the amount that you give; it's the percentage that counts!' The main way to ensure that your hope doesn't migrate into the accumulation of wealth, the only way to break that cycle is to pre-decide.

So here's what it boils down to... If you want to be prepared to manage more money, if you want to be good at being rich, if you want to have margins financially, you have to **pre-decide**. Now here is how this works practically. I suggest that you begin by pre-deciding a percentage of your income to give away and you give it away first. Even if you're not a Christ follower and you want to give it to a children's home or to the Rotary – do it still. What that does is that **it prioritizes something outside of you**. Write those cheques at the beginning of the month before you write any others. That way you don't give leftovers, and don't feel generous when you're actually not. ***It's not the amount you give away but the percentage that counts!***

And when possible, I would also encourage you to prioritize giving some time to do good within the context of the organizations that you give to. One of the reasons that we love when you volunteer at Mavuno is that you are learning to give your time and money to something outside of you that is a blessing to other people. **You're learning to live for something bigger than yourself!**

WHEN A MAN IS WRAPPED UP IN HIMSELF ...HE MAKES A PRETTY SMALL BUNDLE....ask your neighbour (how big a bundle are you?)

But for it to be meaningful, it can't be spontaneous; you have to pre-decide. The irony for many of us is that as God blesses us, those same blessings are what keep us too busy to serve others! So you used to serve but now you're married, or you have kids, or you got a promotion and you're so busy, or your company has grown... Paul is saying the more blessed you are, the more rich you need to be in good deeds and in generosity!

I would not be standing here bringing God's word to you if tens of people didn't pre-decide to get up on Sunday morning a little bit early, show up and serve at Mavuno. ***It was their pre-decision not***

spontaneity. We wouldn't hear about the life-change and all the people who are finding their purpose and marriages saved if many people hadn't pre-decided that every week, that they will give their time to a cause larger than themselves. Some are young people just out of school. Many are busy parents and people who carry great responsibilities. Some are just beginning the careers. Others have high positions at work, and yet have still chosen to prioritize serving! You see the paradigm is that as I grow wealthier, people serve me. But here is a group of people who have said I will be rich in good deeds!

You are blest every single Sunday because of a group of people who are living like they are rich. They pre-decided to do good and they pre-decided to be generous. You see, spontaneous service is not wrong but if that's all you do, you will not live to your potential. What makes the world go round, what make a difference in the world is pre-deciding generosity and service. Don't go with the emotion of the moment; pick a percentage to give and a percentage of your time to serve. That's the key to being 'rich in good deeds, generous and willing to share'. It's the key to being rich in God's eyes!

Now let me wrap up this whole thing, and then we'll pick it up again next week. So here's the whole thing in context, here's what Paul says, "command them to be rich in good deeds (i.e. not just average good but above average, serving doing good for other people, taking that discretionary time and being proactive with it); to be generous (not just normal average generous, everybody's supposed to be generous; but above average generosity) and willing to share.

In other words, to stop your hope from migrating, you've got to pre-decide to do more and to give more. You need to pre-decide where you'll serve and how much you'll give. Because it's not the amount (of money or time) you give away but the percentage that counts!

We'll continue with the passage next week but before I let you go I just want you to use your imagination with me for just one minute. Can you imagine what would happen in our communities in our country; think about this, if every person in every Mavuno Church this weekend said, 'I'm pre-deciding upfront to give a percentage, to do good deeds and to be generous to an organization that is changing the society. Can you imagine what would happen?

I can tell you one thing that I know would happen because I've been doing this a long time, ever since I was a very young Christian. Here's what will happen. When an individual pre-decides, something happens in their hearts and something happens in all of their finances. Because when you begin to give first, you begin to save better and you begin to spend less and you then begin to understand what a demon debt is to you. **Because debt keeps you from putting your money where your heart is**, and suddenly the motivation to live more responsibly in every area of your finances surfaces to the point where you just feel compelled to re-order your financial world.

PRAY

1. Someone praying for a job... Provision + wisdom to contextualize all of this teaching because when things change for you, you want to be right in the center of God's will as it relates to your finances.

2. Someone living on the razor's edge – make money but have no margin in their lives. Pray you'll be convicted to make changes today as you hear God's word on where you are meant to be.