

Computer Generated Transcript - We're going to continue on with our series today we're going to be talking about. Our series on life. Today I just want to say before we could go on the offering has already been taken there will not be another one taken but today we're going to talk about money all right we're not going to be talking about giving We're going to talk about money so for those of you who this is your very first week here welcome I'm sorry we don't preach about money every single time not even close probably twice a year do I talk about this topic and I actually I had a message all prepared today because I was going to wimp out and I was going to just talk about generosity today instead of instead of money and what the Bible actually says of my wife called me a wimp last night and told me that I needed she says that's not really what happened I'm just joking. She's back there but I was already to kind of to go I know the Bible talks about money a lot Jesus talked about money a lot but if I'm just flat honest Jesus is a lot better preacher than I am and so he did that and I just I hate this topic I hate talking about money it's an important thing for us to talk about but I really don't like talking about this it makes me kind of uncomfortable not kind of it makes me very uncomfortable but in saying that I do understand that this is an important topic this is a very very big deal the Bible has over two thousand verses that deal with the topic of money. It has. Depending on who you study and who you look at between twenty two hundred twenty four hundred verses total that touch on the subject of money in the Bible that is more verses than make up the entire New Testament. I mean this is a subject that is talked about over and over and over again in the Bible and I think it's because God knows how big a stranglehold this thing can put in our lives how how easy it is for us to get off set and off track when it comes. When it comes to money and so I don't want to we're not like I said we're not really talking about giving today we're just talking about life and so we're just going to look really simply at what the Bible says about money now I just mentioned there's two thousand some verses that talk about this all right we're not going to cover I'm all you can take a deep breath you know we're not going to go through this verse by verse that would take longer than we have this morning but I want to start here in the first thing I want to do as I want to start about I want to start on a very common misconception about what the Bible says about money you guys have probably heard this this saying money is the root of all evil right I mean you have probably heard that said I know some you are like that's not what the Bible says that's not what I'm saying right now I agree with you that's not what the Bible says but you have probably heard somebody misquote that verse exactly like that multiple times in your faith journey that money is the root of all evil right I mean we hear it all the time and that is literally and some of you are absolutely right you grumblers out there already I don't mean you are like grumbling I just mean like you are talking real loud K. You are absolutely correct that is not what the Bible says about money the Bible never says that money is evil OK It never talks about it in that way that verse that is so often misquoted is found in First Timothy Chapter six I want you to open your Bibles there if you've got on first Timothy Chapter six if you've got a phone or something like that you use you version or Lagasse I'm going to read out of the New Living Translation today and that's that's one of my favorite ones to preach out of if you've got your own favorite that's just fine you can you can go ahead and read through there but first time at the chapter six we're going to be bouncing all over this morning and scripture I kind of like to usually I like to just pick one area but in this topic we're going to be we're going to be bouncing around first of the chapter six are going to start all the way back in verse six this this verse that's misquoted is verse ten but we're going to look at First Timothy Chapter six verse six OK yet true godliness with. Contentment is itself great wealth after all we brought nothing with us when we came into this world and we can't take anything with us when we leave it so if we have enough food and clothing let us be content but people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction for the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil and some people craving money have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many arrows that is the verse that is taken and lifted out of context and not even quoted in whole when you hear the words money is the root of all evil. OK Is that what this is saying even close I mean when you look at what these verses are saying is that even close to the idea that money's evil No that's not what it's saying even even

remotely close it is talking all the way through about how we should be content with what we have and how when we love money when we have this desire to be rich when it's consuming. It's the root of all kinds of wrong things that can happen to the point where it actually caused people to walk away from their faith because they were so set on seeking money. All right and that is the warning that we are given so here's point number one I usually only give one point but I'm going to give several of them today so if you're a note taker here's point number one OK if you're not a note taker that's fine you don't have to be a note taker but if you're no taker Here's bullet point number one money is just a tool money is not inherently good it is not inherently evil it is just a tool it's like a hammer you can pick up a hammer and people have used some variation of something like this for thousands of years to build great wonders and works around this world right I mean Hammers have been used in the great carvings they have been built they've been used to make straight structures this is not inherently a good tool though right it can be used for great good or it can be used for great destruction. Most of you have seen something like that happen it can be used for vandalism or it could be used as a tool for murder if you really want to get crazy right this is not inherently good or evil thing it's just a tool. And whatever you use it for is what defines it as being good or evil this this is another tool. Just a pin right this can be used to write love letters to your wives guys you should do that now and it so should I. This can be used to sign a will this can be used for any snubber of good things. It could also be used. To write letters and bully this can be used for any number of great destructive things it's just a tool. It's just a pin it's not inherently good or evil it's just the pins on how you use it the internet is another one of those things it's a tool there are some great things on the Internet we use the Internet to help teach our children how to read how to learn. I thank God that there's a calendar on there that sinks across my phone and my computer and my tablet so I know what's happening because I'm one of the least organized people in the world and I don't naturally remember dates and so if I don't have something that tells me where I'm supposed to be going I'm probably going to miss all of my appointments it's a tool it can also be used for great harm and many of you have seen that happen. There are many people that are addicted to all kinds of things on the Internet. And it can be a struggle. There are people sure there are people that that have used it to bully I mean I'm telling you when I was in school nobody had the Internet right I mean what I was kind of like it became a thing when I was in junior high and high school it started to become So I remember signing up for my first Hotmail account when I was a sophomore in high school right and like six other people had won so it didn't even really matter. You know I mean and the internet then was dial up the most which a lot of younger people you don't even know what that means but I mean like when you're downloads instead of downloading at ten meg a second you were downloading at three K. A seconds on a good day right for you to illegally steal music I mean download songs then write it took like a half hour per song right now it takes three minutes to download a whole CD. I mean it's changed so much but cyberbullying wasn't a thing when I was in high school it wasn't a thing it was there was no social media. There weren't those kind of things I'm old now OK I I can say that the things that you're struggling with I didn't struggle with when I was in high school it's changed dramatically but the Internet is just a tool it's not inherently good or evil it's just a tool that can be used for both good and harmful things money is the same way. Your money can be a great tool that can impact eternity. Or it can just be something that you're never satisfied with what you have and it consumes your life and everything else takes a second place seat to money it's not the money that's the issue it's you the same way as anything else right I mean that's that's that's the story that's that's the point of all this money isn't the root of evil the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil so when you have with you something like this OK my wife told me I'm not supposed to lose this because we actually took this other one the kids pick you bring banks OK. So I'm not going to give this away today either so he just got really excited cause I pull out money like oh he's going to give away a hundred dollars I'm not I'm going to give it back to my kid. This is not inherently good or wrong right this is not inherently good or evil it's just it's just money it's just a tool OK This right here this is not inherently good or evil. It's just a tool it's just a tool and you decide how it's used right I'm going to put this up here don't come in steal my stuff and put the

hammer on top of it. Take that how you will. Matthew chapter six verses nine hundred twenty four I want you to turn to Matthew chapter six. We're going to read verses nine hundred twenty four Jesus is teaching he's giving his his largest As far as wordage sermon that's recorded in Scripture we don't know if it was as largest ever but it's the largest one recorded Matthew chapter six verses one thousand eight hundred twenty four is where we're going to be nineteen through twenty four Matthew chapter six verses nineteen through twenty four say don't store up treasures here on Earth where Mas eat them and rust destroys them and where thieves break in and steal store your treasures in heaven where Mas and rust cannot destroy and these do not break ins and steal wherever your treasure is there the desires of your heart will be also your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body when your eye is healthy your whole body is filled with light but when your eye is on healthy your whole body is filled with darkness and if the light you think you have is actually darkness how deep that darkness is no one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other you will be deeply devoted to one and despise the other you cannot serve God and Mammon two that's a much older way of saying that modern translations probably say you cannot serve God and money as well. Mammon was the god of finances OK that's that's what that is you've probably heard if you've been around church any amount of time if you haven't been that you probably this is all new to you but if you've been around church for any amount of time you've probably heard that verse used in all kinds of way you can't serve God and fill in the blank you probably heard the sermon and that's OK It's true you can't have two masters you can serve only one master right. But the direct context of this is you cannot serve God and money. You can't chase after God with your whole heart while you're chasing after money OK It is not wrong. To make money I want to say that and we're going to get there in just a second but there are two very clear points made in this one OK we're going to get to the second or the first one of the while we're start with that second one so this is number two right you can't serve God and money at the same time you can't do it this isn't saying you can't have money and serve God at the same time right that's not what this is saying this isn't saying if you have money you can't serve God The Bible never teaches that the Bible does teach that the more money we have usually the less content we are with what we have and then it can become a stumbling block in our path but the Bible never says you can't have money and serve God what it says you can't serve money do you serve your money does it consume your thoughts is money what you think of when you wake up and when you go to sleep is money where you find your security I'm going to stop and just let that one sink in for just a second is money where you find your security. Because if it is our trust is in the wrong place Listen money can bring a form of security I'm not trying to say that it can't but is that where we look to feel secure first is the bottom line of our checkbook where we find our security. Ultimately. Is it your master. That's what all those questions point to. Or do you use it as a tool money is a revealer of the of character one way or the other right I talked about this in other aspects sports is a revealer of character right you want to find out who somebody really is get on a field or a court and start playing some sports with them right right was soon as things started to get tense who they really are starts to come out it doesn't matter if they're super competitive or not it's going to happen you get them out there and you start really plugging away you start pushing on each other you start doing those things you're going to find out what's really inside that person. Money is the same way money doesn't determine our character but how we deal with money reveals our character. It reveals our character it reveals whether or not we have self-discipline or we're selfish it reveals greed or generosity money just reveals what's in there it doesn't cause what's in there it just reveals what's in there. We need to be people marked by self discipline that is a word that is used over and over and over and over again in the Bible. This is how May how you make sure you're managing it and it's not managing to you I mean do you have a budget do you live by any sort of management tool that at the end of the day you know you're living below your means instead of over because you know that the average college senior that graduates from college this year will have twenty thousand dollars in consumer debt on top of their college loans twenty thousand dollars mostly in credit card debt at nineteen to twenty five percent interest on top of their college loans we need to do a better job. We need to do a better

job. We're like Wow that's terrible but most of us can relate to being there at some point time we can relate to the fact that there was a lot more going out than coming in. Right most of us have been there at some point time in our life we still wanted this or we still wanted that so we did it. Particularly if you're in that probably like thirty to forty five range some of you were like they didn't have credit cards when I was starting off. So all right this is a real deal though this is something that that is a real thing we have to do better than this do you tell your money where to go or do you go out I am not saying that a credit card is inherently evil just a tool. How we use it reveals our credit reveals our character. We need to make sure that we're living within our means the Bible talks about that all the time being good with money is not about making more money being good with money is always about the small decisions we make day in and day out now it's hard to be good with money if you don't have any I get that OK and I've already heard that come that comment a million times I hear you. But being good with money is not about just making more money it's about being wise with what's coming in. Right if you live exactly paycheck to paycheck every week every month there will be a month where something big and unforeseen happens and there will be no money to deal with it correct. It's just part of life it's part of what happens those unforeseen things happen money is not the cause but how we deal with it is so important make small decisions to stay on track day in and day out. It is so important for us to be people who are not mastered by money. But decide ahead of time to master our money all right there are all kinds of tools I can point you to if you want help on that please come and talk to me afterwards I'm not going to preach a whole whole sermon today on managing finances that's just that's not a beneficial thing for everybody all right but if you have more questions about that I've got lots of tools I would love to point you to I got that we've got lots of different things I am not perfect in this I don't want to make it sound like I am I just got tools that are really good all right we still make mistakes in our own things we have not figured all this out but this is an important thing for most of us and it's time to it's time to get in control of it I mean what are you waiting for if you're out there and you're struggling day in and day out with where that's gone it's time to do something different right just do some different take back control we want to help you Proverbs Chapter twenty two seven is one of the most famous famous verses on money in the Bible Proverbs Chapter twenty two verse seven I want to just reiterate what we talked about last week we went through Proverbs Chapter One we look this is a collection of God inspired God breathed wisdom this is not God inspired God breathed promises beginning to end OK that's not what the Book of Proverbs is this is this is like best practices it's a collection of wisdom Solomon himself tells us that at the beginning of proverbs that this is a collection of wisdom designed to help us be wise and to know what the wise thing is to do Proverbs twenty two seven says just as the rich rule the poor so the borrower is servant to the lender I only grab one verse I could have grabbed hundreds of verses in the Bible that talk about that the Bible never says that debt is sin but here's point number three a carefree attitude toward debt is not a Biblical attitude. A carefree attitude toward debt is not how the Bible talks about debt. If we're going to enter debt we should do it very seriously and very specifically I'm going to tell a story right now just so you can you can know that I'm not perfect and we're not we're not we don't I'm not trying to preach from a place of I've got this all figured out we finally paid off our band in March or April March April. Paid off our band in April such a good feeling right so it's a good day and then June happened now is OK made it through June right OK got through there then we made the mistake of going out in July Fourth weekend that's so that's always our issue July fourth last year my brother in law he and it does this year we're going to Montana and we smoked a deer totaled out the van while we're in another state which is really fun to have to deal with all that stuff in another state total it had to get another loan OK because we had the kid home. Needed needed a way to get home we totaled out our car over there listen I'm not we're not I'm not trying to sit up here saying that debt is a sin. But it's serious and a lot of us don't T. treat it that way a lot of us don't think of debt that way at all right we just want to do snowmobile So we go get a new one. We just want three cars so we have three payments right we just want want so we just go acquire more debt listen I'm not saying that debt is sin I'm just saying the Bible talks about a very seriously so if we're going to enter debt you better do it with a sober mind paying

attention to what's happening because the Bible teaches us that when we're in debt we're a slave to the lender and that plays out in real life right. I mean that that plays out in real life if you're going to enter debt you should do it seriously listen I know a lot of people have to go into debt to buy a car I think it's smart to continue your education in whatever manner I don't think it's smart to acquire one hundred twenty thousand dollars worth of college debt for a job that no longer exists OK Be smart. Don't just go to college and take this certain degree because that's what everybody tells you you need to do. The smart. Home is an investment right home should accrue value. Can I tell you one of my pet peeves real quick if you didn't buy a classic car your car is not an investment or at least we have to be honest and say it's a terrible investment. OK because your car is not going to appreciate in value it is only going to go one direction down. If that's how you invest you need to talk to a banker OK. Listen I understand buying a tool you need to get to work you know get your kids to school I'm not saying you should never go into debt for a car but it's not an investment right it's just not. OK I'm going to move on. Mark Chapter twelve versus forty one through forty four is probably one of the weirdest portions of Scripture in the Bible OK march over twelve years forty one to forty four I want to turn there most of your I've heard this before and so you're not going to think it's weird until you really sit down and think about it March after twelve versus forty one through forty four Mark twelve forty one through forty four Jesus says or it says Jesus sat down near the collection box in the temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money I want to stop right there that's why this is weird. OK that's like me carrying around the offering bags and just looking at what everybody puts in all good job Mike that's a good job today right well Jeanette Yeah thank you for that I think you could do a little better right I mean this is you this is staring at people putting money into the collection plate and then he's about to teach on what they put in. K. on specifically what these people put in if that's not weird to you I don't know what would be. Jesus sat down near the collection box in the temple and washes the cloud crowds dropped in their money many rich people put in large amounts first forty two then a poor widow came and dropped into small coins Jesus called his disciples to him and said I tell you the truth this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions for they gave a tiny part of their surplus but she poor she is has given everything she had to live on I forgot to grab this a little earlier and I'll do it now I know you can't see this from where you're sitting if you're very far back. But this is a mite. OK when it says the what the widow who gave her last might this this is that coin OK if you want to come see it afterwards I'll let you see it don't steal it OK I like it but this is a mite this is what she gave it was the smallest coin of value that was in the system they didn't have a smaller coin of value the might was like our penny OK it was a very low value coin but she came in and she gave all that she had right here's number Well I'm not going to get there quite yet I'm going to I'm going away just a second if you go back and you look at me at the beginning of Matthew chapter six verse one thousand we read it earlier don't store up treasures here on Earth where Maz eat them and rust destroy them were thieves break in and steal store of your treasures in heaven where Mas and rust cannot destroy and thieves do not break and steal wherever your treasures their heart will be also number four his bullet point number four you ready. The Christian life should be marked by radical generosity. I mean we should be people who are defined. By generosity this is not me telling you you need to put more in an offering plate. This is be saying that we should be a people that when people think of us they think I'm I'm not like some of the things that they stand for I might not agree with their theology but I cannot argue with the fact that those are the most generous people I know. You can sit and you can argue the ten percent in the tie then all those things if you want to argue that that's fine but what you can't argue with in the New Testament is how many verses we see over and over and over again that call us to this ridiculous. Generosity this ridiculous heart desire. To be generous people. And Jesus taught he's standing there looking at the money plate it says he saw a rich people come in put in large amounts he saw people over wealth coming in and putting in large things the person that he praised was not the person who gave the biggest offering just straight across the board it was who gave the most generously and that was the lady who probably put the least amount in that day. As she dropped in her might your generosity is not measured versus what somebody else

does you understand that you can't look at a bottom line and be like all that person only gave this much and I gave this much that means I'm a more generous person that has nothing to do with generosity generosity is that it is an issue of the heart where we're going to give. We're going to be a part of something that is bigger than us the Bible tells us to invest where it matters to invest eternally this is not me saying that you need to go cash out all your investments and invest them eternally this is just me saying that the Bible talks about this over and over and over the Bible tells us in Genesis Deuteronomy Psalms Ecclesiastes job proverbs First Corinthians Matthew and Revelation. That everything on this earth is God's anyway everything we are not owners you understand the difference we're not owners we're stewards. Everything that is. Is God's everything is created by. And for. God so we're not owners of our stuff we're managers of our stuff stewards is an older Biblical World word. It's not ours and over and over again we've already read two different verses that say we can't take it with us so let's be people that are marked by radical generosity of people that are known for how generous we are a woman can be radically generous with a penny OK. It's not about how much. It's about the heart behind it. To be people I've been around some of these people their contagious. Right you know what I'm talking about you've been around people that are radically generous. With their time with their resources. It's contagious you get around I mean you're like That's wish I was better at that and then a lot of us cheater sells out of it and we think if I just had more money I could do that. And we sell sure what they're doing because we have no idea what their bottom line is we just say if I had more money I could be more generous I want to tell you today. It's not about how much it's about the heart behind it all there are lots of ways to be generous money is just one of them. I want to encourage you to invest in the eternal I want to encourage you to put your money put your time put your energy on things that make a difference and eternity not just now listen I know you can quote verses some of you who have been around here you've been around the Bible long enough you can quote proverbs and say we're supposed to leave something behind for our kids you can I mean the Bible talks about being wise financial managers this isn't me saying you need to give every penny you've ever made you know to the church or else God really doesn't like you very much it's not what I'm saying even close but what I am saying is are we marked by generosity are we people who are known. As generous people so important it's so important and listen one of the things that I always loved about being a youth pastor is how early you can see that. I got that I was a youth pastor for almost ten years working with students they're all old now and the they're not a news group anymore but I got I loved watching teenagers get so excited and so generous that their parents were like I don't know if this is a good idea I loved it I loved watching college seniors catch a vision for missions and being like I'm going to go on a mission strip and I'm going to give a thousand dollars a speech like this year and their parents are like listen you got college next year it's one thing to be stupid I agree with you parents. But it's another thing when their heart is just beating for the last when their heart is just beating for people who don't have anything. And I just want to make a difference it's such an exciting thing I love being around some of you who are that way some of you I don't tell when the church needs stuff because I know if I bring it up you're just going to pay for it. Because you're just generous people so you don't know all the needs and that's the purpose some of you are upset with me right now. It's a contagious thing when you're around people who are marked by generosity. You know you've had names flashing through your head the whole time we've been talking about this such a cool thing so what does the Bible teaches about money I want to recap these four things and the Bible teaches a lot more these are just four things I landed on today. Money is to stress the tool you cannot serve money and God at the same time a carefree attitude toward debt is not a Biblical attitude and a Christian life should be marked by outrageous radical amazing generosity fill in your own descriptor their Bible teaches a lot about money. Has a lot to say about it right was it about giving today. Right Rob taking another offering right now we're not going to do it now this is about. It's about you searching your heart. Finding whether or not money is in its proper place and you using a tool. That's just a tool. Where it makes the biggest impact for eternity I love it I love that our kids are involved in it. I love that our students are involved in it so much is coming so far and see John any more words yet there is in the

back I want to come in so far. About ten thousand dollars. Our teenagers are raising that. That's pretty stinking also mha. The student. That's amazing the last two years teenagers in Minnesota have helped raise over a million dollars a year for missions the speed of light. A million dollars. That's also kids are raising thousands of dollars they don't make any money their kids. Right they can't get a job I know you could but they can't it's amazing this church has been amazing over the years I'm so glad we're partnering with things like feed my starving children I'm so glad we're able to do these kind of things were able to go on missions trips you if you don't know right out there on in the foyer the little meeting place where you first come in on that wall right right over there there is a wall full of missionaries and those are people that we support every month out of this church because people in this church give every month to missions were able to support local groups were able to support foreign groups were able to do all kinds of things because you have been people marked by generosity this is not me saying You guys are terrible at this and I'm disappointed in you all. It's not I'm saying it all. This is just me saying let's continue let's make sure we have a biblical mindset about money sure we have a bill let's let them let's let the Bible teach us about debt instead of commercials on T.V. It's people who are marked by generosity. Because that's what we're called to his followers and Jesus. All right I want to encourage you guys today here's my point here's my take home point for you today. I want you to talk if you're married talk to your spouse if you're not sit down and think about it I want to encourage you to think about one way this week you can be more generous and you were last week just one doesn't have to be money OK Don't mistake what I'm saying generosity is about more than your checkbook What's one way this week that you could be more generous than you were last week I don't want you to be like I'm already a really generous person so I probably got this one figured out I want you to think this week what's one way one thing. This week that you could do just just take that next step and be more generous maybe it's volunteering some time. Maybe it's writing a letter. Maybe it's forgiving somebody maybe it has to do with money. Maybe it's calling up that mom that just needs a break and saying hey I got your kids for an hour. Pick a time this week don't just show up that's most moms don't want that because I'm this week I got your kids just go brief I don't know. Think about it one thing this week want to close a service the way we always do all right we believe in this church that none of this really matters at all we could talk about just being generous all we want we could do all these things but it all hinges on the fact that Jesus is who he said he was all right we believe I know we haven't talked about Jesus on the cross the day we sang about it this morning but we haven't talked about it we've been talking about money but none of this matters. If we discount that very real fact the Bible teaches us that Jesus came to this earth about two thousand years ago in the flesh as a man. He walked through life and ultimately he became the final sacrifice ever needed for sin he gave up his life willingly. So that you could be made right with God but he didn't just die. That would that wouldn't be as cool a story and that wouldn't be a unique story a lot of people have died for what they believed in. He didn't just die. He rose from the dead he conquered sin and death. And if he can do that. What in the world could possibly be to big. What in the world could possibly be beyond the scope of what he's capable of. So I want to encourage you in this place if you're in here and you've never chosen Jesus it's really simple the Bible teaches it very simply if you want to choose Jesus you acknowledge. Your sin or you believe Jesus is who he says he is you confess your sins to him and that's the beginning of the journey that is you saying I'm going to I'm going to do my best to follow God it's really simple to become a believer in Jesus listen it takes effort we're talking about hard things today to walk as Jesus walked that's that's a commitment that's an effort but to choose them is really really simple. And if you're in here and you've never done that you want to give you an opportunity to do that this morning if you're in here and you've chosen God in the past. But you've just been doing your own thing you haven't been living for God you've been living for you and this morning you want to be prayed with about that to just start that journey again. To just recommit your life to Jesus we're going to give you that opportunity as well all right so not a call you are not going to bear so I'm just going to ask you to raise your hand just a moment so if you could by your hands and close your eyes. We just want to make this a simple as possible if you're in this place and you've never chosen Jesus

and this morning you're ready to. This morning you're ready to say Jesus I need you to lead my life and your forgiveness I want to spend eternity with you I'd like you just raise your hand so anybody first time you've never done this before this morning you want to do it just raise your hand and we're not going away a long walk to motivate out of guilt All right we're going with that second question maybe you're in this place and you you've done this thing before you you know the answers you've been around the church you've you know what you should be doing but lately you haven't you been living for you. Not for God. And this morning you know it's time for a change. We'd like to pray with you I'd like you to raise your hand if there's anybody in here and that fits you who want to pray with you this morning if not we'll move on that we want to give people a chance right I saw your hand go up is there anybody else want to give people a chance all right see anybody else Rice here's what we're going to you can go have a look at me again. If you just raise your hand I want to pray a prayer with you and I don't know where your faith life is that I don't know if you know how to pray so I'm just going to I'm going to pray and I want you to follow after me right as when I help you in that. All right if you're in this place and you've chosen Jesus I'd like you to repeat after me as well all right just so it's not two people in a room this size OK We just want to take some of that edge off if you're in here and you have never chosen Jesus and you're not ready to yet we're not going to make you do anything you don't want to do as a matter of fact you not only have our blessing we didn't courage you not to pray along with us right now because we don't want you to promise anything you don't me OK We don't want you to we don't want you to promise something you don't mean so you have our permission in our blessing to sit quiet as we do this but I want to encourage you if you are in this place and you raise your hand repeat after me and if you're in here and you're a follower of Jesus I'd like you to repeat after me as well Jesus. I know better I've been doing things my own way and I'm sorry. Forgive me I need to walk in step with you again lead me guide me I choose you and your name I pray. Amen. Those are amazing moments and I hope you realize how incredible that is. Those those are amazing things and I want to encourage you in this place if you the somebody brought you talk to them about what just happened if you have questions ask them if they if nobody brought you or the person who brought you doesn't know any more than you do come and talk with me I want to talk with you about this all right this is a big thing we've got some things we want to talk you through. I'm so encouraged by that this morning again I want to play one more time and we're going to go from this place I want to encourage you just Morning ask that question What's one thing I can do this week that's more generous than I was last week. All right ask yourself even if you don't know Jesus generosity is still a good thing. OK ask how you can be more generous for those of you who are following Jesus you don't get any excuses this is our calling one of the things we're supposed to be marked by. Think about it but some time into it. God you're good. And I thank you Jesus. That you gave so much in such clear instruction in the Bible God Money is one of those things I can come in and just get in the way of so many things God I'm grateful to live in a country where we have things like electricity and running water God we have clothes most of us don't have to worry if we're going to be able to eat today I thank you for that blessing your work tells us if we're given much much is expected though. And I pray God that you help us. To be people marked by generosity not just in our money but generosity in our heart. Speak to us lead us guide us we will trust in you a man. Have a great afternoon.