**May 12, 2019**

**Sermon Highlights:** On Sunday, Keith continued the “Faith Works” series by covering what James 5 had to say about money.  I thought it was important to point out that the passage was not the all-encompassing message about money, but directed specifically to people who were misusing their money by hoarding it, living too lavishly, or withholding it from people.  I have a retirement account through my job, and the thought ran through my mind whether I’m supposed to be giving that away. While I don’t think that’s the case – I did squirm over other issues.

The bigger issue and problem is whether I act as though I “own” my money, or God owns it, and if God owns it, do I *ask and listen* to how he wants me to spend it. It really wasn’t about how much money we had, whether rich or poor, but whom we served – God or our money.  Scripture says we cannot serve both God and money.  And as Keith said, we cannot be fully devoted followers of Jesus yet keep our finances separate.

Money is a touchy subject and a matter between you and God.  If feelings creep up of**fear** (God’s going to make me give everything away) or **guilt**(I can’t be a good Christian and be wealthy), just stop and refuse to accept those feelings.  It has to start with grace.  God wants us to trust that he is FOR us and wants the BEST for us.  He has given everything to us, withheld nothing from us so we could have all he has. This same God can be trusted with the money he has allowed us to have. If that doesn’t ring true, ask God to show you why you doubt him.  Whatever comes of that prayer will be much more important than what you do with your money.

**Prayer and Application:** Silently pray and ask God how he sees your attitude toward money?  “God, do see me as owning or stewarding my money?  Is there anything you want me to see or do differently with the money you have entrusted me with?”