Sermon Outline: The American Dream vs. the Kingdom Dream

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5:10; Matthew 16:26; 1 Timothy 6:10

Introduction

- Most people come to America seeking opportunity, freedom, and a better life.
- Yet the pursuit of success can easily become the pursuit of possessions.
- The question is not whether money is good or bad, but where our trust and hope are placed.

I. The Lure of More

Key Truth: Possessions promise satisfaction but never fully satisfy.
Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5:10, "*The lover of money will not be satisfied with money.*"

Questions

1. What is something you recently wanted but did not truly need?
2. Have you ever purchased something expecting happiness, only to find the excitement faded quickly?
3. What fuels our desire for "more" in today's culture?

Application

- Practice gratitude daily by naming three blessings God has already provided.
- Before making a purchase, ask: "Is this a need, a want, or an attempt to find satisfaction?"
- Spend time thanking God for what you have rather than focusing on what you lack.

II. The Deeper Heart Problem

Key Truth: Materialism is ultimately a spiritual issue.
Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:10b, "*Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*"

Questions

1. How can greed, envy, or covetousness affect our relationship with God?
2. In what ways does debt or financial anxiety limit spiritual freedom?
3. What competes with God for first place in your heart?

Application

- Invite God to reveal unhealthy attachments.
- Pray daily: "Lord, change my heart and align my desires with Your will."
- Identify one habit that encourages materialism and intentionally reduce its influence.

III. Choosing the Kingdom Dream

Key Truth: God's dream for us is contentment, generosity, and faithful stewardship.

Scripture: Matthew 16:26, "*What will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?*"

Questions

1. What does "success" look like from God's perspective?
2. How can generosity help break the power of greed?
3. What would it look like to seek God's kingdom first in your finances?

Application

- Practice contentment by celebrating God's provision.
- Commit to one act of intentional generosity this week.
- Create a simple plan to live within your means and honor God with your resources.

Conclusion

The American Dream tells us that life is found in having more. The Kingdom Dream reminds us that life is found in Christ. God calls us from acquisition to stewardship, from craving to contentment, and from greed to generosity. When we seek God's kingdom first, we discover the true treasure that money can never buy.

Closing Reflection

Where is God inviting you today: to want less, trust more, or give more?

Closing Prayer

Lord, change our hearts. Teach us contentment, simplicity, and generosity. Help us place our trust not in possessions but in You. May we seek first Your Kingdom and find true joy in Christ. Amen.