

First United Methodist Church, Sallisaw – Daily Scripture Readings 2/16/14

Lord Jesus, we are bombarded with financial wisdom, but our debts keep rising, our spending accelerates, and we keep feeling the pressure to live for the moment and spend more. You say that our life is not about our possessions. You call us to find contentment in Your blessings and to make our relationship with You the center of our lives. Teach us to hear Your voice, and bless us as we work and use our money in ways that will honor and bless You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Tuesday** – Read Proverbs 21:20. *Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise, but the fool devours it.* John Wesley said, “Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can.” For Wesley, earning all you can was about being disciplined in the way we spend our money. We live in an age of easy credit. We have been trained to think that we can buy now and pay later. In fact, our culture trains us to be consumers who consume all kinds of products. One of the keys to putting God first in our lives is to learn to live beneath our means rather than above our means. The millionaire next door usually drives an old car because he or she has learned how to save and how to control spending. When was the last time you saved money to make a purchase? Ask God to help you take the time to make a budget and live by it.

**Thursday** – Read Proverbs 13:11. There are easily a half-dozen proverbs that say, “Stay a country-mile away from get-rich-quick schemes.” It’s not God’s way. Spend some time thinking about how casinos and the lottery oppress and prey upon the poor. Do you gamble away the resources that God has given you to use to do good in the world, to feed your family, and to educate your children? Consider this: The odds are in your favor that you are more likely to get hit by lightning four times than you are to win the lottery. Pray for God to help you grow in contentment.

**Saturday** – Read I Timothy 6:6-10. We do not talk much about contentment in our culture; rather, we talk about gaining more and more and more. Contentment is the ability to be satisfied with the blessings you have received from God. We are more likely to find contentment when we focus on our relationship with God and our relationships with our family and friends. One of the greatest disciplines we can learn is to decipher between our needs and our wants. God has promised to provide for our needs. Pursuing great riches rather than pursuing our relationship with God can lead to ruin and destruction. Money is neither good nor bad, but the love of money is the root of all evil. Pray about how God is calling you to use money in a way that will glorify and please God.

*Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:*

### New & Short Term Requests\*

- Hospitalized/ Continuing Treatment**

## On-Going Needs

## Our Service People

\*Names on this list will remain for three weeks.

Call Anne Bottorff, (918) 775-2072, to start the Prayer Chain.