**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, October 15, 2017**

**Sermon Title: Stewardship Series: Livin’ the Dream**

**Insanity**

**Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5:10-15 (*NIV*)** 10Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless. 11As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them? 12The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep. 13I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners, 14or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when they have children there is nothing left for them to inherit. 15Everyone comes naked from their mother’s womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands.

**Matthew 6:19-24 (*NIV*)** 19“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only)**

**Take Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace; that is enough for me. Amen.** *(Saint Ignatius of Loyola)*

**Basic Theme: *Chasing the American Dream is part of our culture. Livin’ the Dream consists of a house, car, white picket fence, marriage, 2.5 kids, and a good job to pay for it all. Work hard, pay your taxes, accumulate much, and leave a little something for your family when your time on earth is done. Many have sacrificed everything to achieve it only to discover that when they “arrive,” one question still looms… “Is there more to life than livin’ the dream?” What if Christians began chasing a different dream? How would our lives and our world change if our dream was to love deeply, serve humbly, forgive mercifully, give generously, and follow Jesus passionately?***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): Money, in and of itself, is not evil. Monetary wealth is not sinful. However, when earning money to accumulate wealth and possessions becomes our primary goal in life, we replace our dependence on God with dependence on self. We are only stewards of the resources gifted to us by our Creator. Money is only one tool temporarily placed in our hands to do the work God calls us to do. The reason Jesus taught so much about money is because it is the chief competitor for our hearts. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting to get different results. When our purpose is to earn more to spend more so that we can have more, we get caught in a cycle of insanity. Break the cycle and choose a different dream!**

**So What? Do you spend more time worrying about money than you do talking with God? Are you caught in a cycle of insanity? What practical steps do you need to take to break the cycle? What resources to you need to acquire to become an effective manager of the resources God has placed within your hands? Good stewardship is not a matter of the will or of the mind, it is a meter of the heart. Who or what has your heart?**