**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, October 22, 2017**

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

**More**

**Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:2b-10** These are the things you are to teach and insist on. 3If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, 4they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions 5and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. 6But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

**Luke 12:16-26 (*NIV*)** 16And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ 18“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ 20“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ 21“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.” 22Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

**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): The destination of “more” is a black hole that swallows all who travel there. The desire for money is all-consuming and the lust for wealth has an insatiable appetite. It is a path that never leads to a place of contentment. Do not settle for “livin’ a dream” that is meaningless and leaves you feeling empty and insignificant. Choose a dream that will last and whose rewards offer eternal significance. As servants of God, our resources are unlimited and our role as effective stewards is to glorify our creator with all we have and honor God in everything we do. You were made for so much more!**

**So What? Are you content or unsettled? Are you happy with where you are or focused on where you are going? Do you struggle to thank God for your present blessings because you are more concerned about future circumstances? Do you want more? More of what? What will you do with more when you get it? Where will you put it? How would your life change if your dream was to get more of God? How would your outlook change if your dream was to give more to God?**