***October 7, 2018***

***Today’s Lesson: “It’s All Mine!”***

**From Mike:**

Do you have Dollar Envy? You know what that is. It’s being envious of someone who has more dollars than you do. You see the things they are able to do and afford, and you fantasize about all the things you would do if you had the money they had.

In High School, I had a very tight allowance from my mother. Remember, I was at a Christian school, living in the dorm, so my allowance had to cover any expenses I incurred, and not just snacks, dating, and entertainment. I got five dollars a week, which my Mom sent every two weeks. It NEVER lasted two weeks. I had a friend all through those years who was not a dorm student and he came from a very wealthy local family. He always had money. He never had to do without and watch others buy Cokes and candy at the local store or stay home when there was a group going to the movies during the weekend. He had really nice, stylish clothes, and a brand new Mercury Cyclone on his sixteenth birthday. Wow. He had it all, and I always wished I could discover what that was like. I survived without it!

The dollars that I **DIDN’T HAVE** had no impact on the number or quality of friends I had. I learned, grew, and was very happy—even without those extra dollars to do things that seemed so important at the time. Isn’t it amazing how our perspective about money changes as we grow and mature? I remember walking into my favorite store, while in my twenties, and dreaming about all the many things I wish I had money enough to buy. I remember almost grieving over the unfulfilled desire that I could do nothing about. Several years later, I remember walking into that same store with all the THINGS and MORE that I desired and longed for on display, and thinking to myself, “I can afford to buy anything in this shop now!” It felt kind of good, but you know what? I didn’t want anything in that shop anymore. My “want to” had changed and so did my view of money.

Money is a strange thing. It seems so important at times, but then we learn that it’s only a means to an end. I guess our feeling about that “means” truly depends on the “end” we want. Matt. 6:33