

For the Love of Money 1

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Luke 16:1-15 – Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man [God] whose manager [Man] was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management [This day is coming for all of us], because you cannot be manager any longer [This life ends].' ³ "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— ⁴ I know what I'll do so that when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.' ⁵ "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ "Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.' ⁷ "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.' ⁸ "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light [maximize what you steward to benefit your master]. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone [you die], you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings [The people welcoming you are the ones you won to Christ]. ¹⁰ "Whoever can be trusted with very little [Money] can also be trusted with much [People], and whoever is dishonest with very little [Money] will also be dishonest with much [People]. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches [People]? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? ¹³ "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." ¹⁴ The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.

The purpose of money is to impact people for eternity!

Ecclesiastes 5:10 – If you love money, you will never be satisfied; if you long to be rich, you will never get all you want. It is useless.

How I handle the money I have reveals my heart.

The cure to the love of money is giving.

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 – Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²⁴ No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

I Timothy 6:10 – For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager or covetous [excited in the mind] for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs and sorrows.

We are to love people and use money.

When we love money, we use people to get money.

Covetous: When we are “excited in the mind” for money, we will wander from the faith.

We are to be “excited in the mind” for Jesus and his purpose for humanity. We use money to lift broken people!

I am desperate to see broken and hurting people get help.

Jesus takes this personally!

Matthew 25:40 – “And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ ”

The blessings of God aren’t about the pursuit of money, but rather helping and serving people.

God is not against you having money. He is against money having you.

Psalms 35:27 – Let them shout for joy and be glad, that favor my righteous cause: yes, let them say continually, let the Lord be magnified, which has pleasure in the prosperity of his servants.

Money is not evil; loving it is!

Whether money is a blessing or curse depends upon the heart of whose hands it is in.

The primary issue about God and money is one of stewardship.

I Corinthians 4:1-2 – So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.² Now it is required that those stewards who have been given a trust must be proven faithful.

Stewardship is required.

We are called to steward:

- Our Time
- Our Talent
- Our Money

Most people fail the first requirement of stewardship: giving.

We are called to walk in the steps of faith of our father Abraham.

He was 75 years old when God called him to a journey of faith.

God can redeem years of unfaithfulness in an instant when we repent or turn toward Him.

Let's join our time, talent, and money together and see Jesus redeem our families and our world!