

For the Love of Money 2

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Mark 10:17-31 – As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone."¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."²⁸ Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"²⁹ "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields — and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

I wonder how important his money is to him today?

What would his life looked like if he understood what "true wealth" really was?

He turned down the offer, "Come and follow me," for money!

Whenever God isn't first, we are walking toward darkness.

How we handle money is the first and easiest area to determine the place God's purposes hold in our hearts.

Matthew 6:21 – For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Malachi 3:6-17 – "I the Lord do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.⁷ Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees [tithes and offerings] and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return [tithes and offerings]?'⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings."⁹ You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because

you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty. ¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty. ¹³ "You have said harsh things against me," says the Lord. Yet you ask, 'What have we said against you?' ¹⁴ "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty?' ¹⁵ But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.'" ¹⁶ Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. ¹⁷ "They will be mine," says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not."

God calls us His "treasured possessions."

They weren't robbing God of money, but of the precious fruit of the earth.

James 5:7 – Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

1 Peter 1:18-19 – For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

God calls people precious.

God calls the blood of Jesus precious as well.

God used his "precious blood" to reach his "treasured people."

"If you do business with the heart of Christ, the mind of God, and the coaching of the Holy Spirit, there is no limit to your impact to all you touch and what touches you. I really believe that Christ's love is a strategy and a multiplier on everything. It's supernatural in its effect and only slows down when we get in the way."

Matthew 5:13-16 – "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. ¹⁴ "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.

¹⁵ If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. ¹⁶ Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.
(The Message)