

GOD'S WORD AND OUR FINANCES

I. A MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE – LEARNING TO BE A GOOD STEWARD

How you manage God's money reflects your attitude toward God, and is a litmus test of your character, and your relationship with God. We will give an account to God of how we managed His money. Romans 14:12, Luke 16:11

II. LUKE 3:10-14 – JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS PREACHING ON SIN

The people's repentance in large part had to do with their money.

III. LUKE 5:27-28 -- LEVI, THE TAX COLLECTOR

Levi was corrupt and was overcharging people, but He gave up His money for Jesus, for He realized that Jesus was his true treasure. Matthew 13:44-46

IV. LUKE 6:20, 24 – SPIRITUALLY POOR AND THEN SPIRITUALLY RICH

The main thing in life is not being successful financially, but knowing you are a sinner, that you are spiritually poor, and then being born again and becoming spiritually rich. Woe to those who are physically rich but are spiritually poor. James 1:9-12, 5:1-6

V. LUKE 6:38 – BEING A GIVER

One of the most important things with money is learning to be a giver to others, and to the Lord's work. For your giving, God will bless you now and forever. Luke 8:14

VI. LUKE 9:23-25 – LIFE IS KNOWING AND FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST

The Christian life is not about having money or things – it's about knowing Christ, and denying self and following Him. True success comes not from money, position or fame, but from God. Whatever money you have is from God and for His purposes. Phil. 1:21, 3:7-8

VII. LUKE 12:13-21 – LESSONS ABOUT MONEY, POSSESSIONS AND RETIREMENT

"Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." Colossians 3:5

"Eat, drink and be merry" - don't be deceived by what the world says about money.

"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" Luke 12:4-6

VIII. LUKE 15:11-31 – THE PRODIGAL SON – HOW THE WORLD THINKS

People spend lots of money on things that have no value. But they are deceived. Repent of any wrong attitudes that you have about God and about money.

IX. LUKE 16:1-13 – THE MASTER AND THE STEWARD

- A. God is the Master, the Owner, and you are the steward, the manager, the slave.
- B. If you are not a good manager, God may take away what He has given you. Luke 19:24
- C. Use what you have for others – *“make friends for yourselves by means of money.”*
- D. *“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much.”*
Faithfulness results in being blessed on earth and in heaven. Luke 19:17
- E. Who then is your master, God or your money? *“You cannot serve God and wealth.”*

X. LUKE 18:18-30 – THE RICH YOUNG RULER

- A. This young ruler was deceived. He didn't realize his sin and his need for salvation.
- B. This young ruler's primary sin was his greed. He was an idolater, he loved money and he was unwilling to part with it.
- C. It is hard to be rich and enter the kingdom of God. People can put their trust in their money but they don't sense their need for God, and so they don't trust God.
- D. God will bless you if you give all you have to Him for His kingdom. Mark 10:29-31

XI. LUKE 19:1-10 – ZACCHEUS AND HIS CHANGED LIFE

Zaccheus loved his money, but he repented of his sin of cheating people out of their money. Now he loved God and he wanted to do what was right in God's sight. *“If I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.”* Exodus 22:1

XII. LUKE 19:11-27 – THE MASTER AND HIS SLAVES

“Do business with this until I come back.” “Well done good slave because you have been faithful in a very little thing.”

BOTH RICHES AND HONOR COME FROM YOU, AND YOU RULE OVER ALL, AND IN YOUR HAND IS POWER AND MIGHT, AND IT LIES IN YOUR HAND TO MAKE GREAT AND TO STRENGTHEN EVERYONE. NOW THEREFORE OUR GOD, WE THANK YOU AND PRAISE YOUR GLORIOUS NAME. 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe that God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. How would you evaluate yourself as a steward, as a manager for God?
3. Are there any wrong attitudes or actions that you need to repent of with regards to money?
4. How and why is the world deceived when it comes to money and possessions?
5. What should you do to guard yourself from being deceived by money and possessions?
6. Why is it important to be a giving person? How are you doing at being a giver?
7. Think about how you are to be faithful in all areas of your life?

“Moses was faithful in all his house as a servant.” Hebrews 3:5