

Intro: Watching TV this week and saw a couple of news stories that caught my attention since talking about finances:

- Jeff Bezos (Amazon fame) purchased a new home...little spot in NY...paid 80 million for it!
- Tracy Morgan had a little fender bender new car: 2 million Bugatti (25k oil change, 40 tire change) 100-200k dent

Whenever I see things like that it is just mind blowing. I find it difficult to wrap my brain around that kind of thinking. With all of the need in the world...why would you choose to spend that kind of money on those things...

(Not a fishing boat...that I could understand!)

Today I want to continue our series titled "Whose Money" by looking at what Jesus had to say about money.

Like I mentioned last week, Jesus talked a LOT about money! If we were to try and do an exhaustive look at it, take long time

Instead, lets look at the The Gospel of Luke...cover the main points...

Way we are going to do this...is look at the Principles...The overarching approaches and foundational assumptions Jesus makes
Jesus Principles Concerning Money

1. Issues Of The Heart

Lets start this morning where Jesus starts...with the heart. We have to get the heart right...

Prov 23: "As a man thinks in his heart so he is!"

- God Demands First Place In Your Heart, Over Everything Else!

Luke 14:33 "So therefore, any one of you who does *not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.*"

Notice what Jesus says: "There is to be NOTHING in your life that you value over God!

In fact, He says to us, if you want to follow me, you have to give up everything!

Renounce: Lit = *to say goodbye, to bid farewell, to let go completely* (Rich Young Ruler)

- Money and Possessions Can Steal Your Heart Away From God

Luke 8:14 "And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked out by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature."

Choked out: Lit = *to strangle or choke, to crowd out* (Like weeds in a garden) Neighbors ivy

It is very easy for us to allow things...or the pursuit or things...or the enjoyment of things...to move our heart fm God

Illus: I have seen more committed Christians sidetracked by abundance than by lack!

- Your Heart Follows Your Treasure...Not The Other Way Around!

Luke 12:33-34 "Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

We usually get this one backwards: We THINK: I will give when my heart is moved toward something. Money-Heart

That's not at all what the bible says: Opposite: WHEN I give...then my heart follows!

Our hearts are wicked...easily influenced!

Illus: Buy a stock...and see what happens

Give to a specific ministry...or program...or need...

What you will discover is that your heart will follow your money!

Buy a Boat, Pay 50-75k for it...see where your heart wants to be on Sunday Am!

TRAIN YOUR HEART!

2. Attitudes Toward Money And Possessions

These are related to heart issues...but a little more generic in scope, as opposed to being focused on the heart

- A Disciples Security Is Found In God...Not In Their Possessions

Luke 9:1-3 "And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics."

Most of us struggle with this. We feel like security in life is found when we accumulate enough money, have a good enough insurance policy, and our 401 is fully funded! Guess what...None of that means anything!

Security is found in God...not in things! You can have EVERY physical thing you could ever want...not be happy/satisfied!

Rick Amato: Talking with a man struggling...lost everything: *When Presence of God all you have...All you need!*

- There Are MANY Things IN Life More Important Than Money and Possessions!

Luke 11:22-23 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

Luke 11:31 "Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you."

Anxious: Lit = *Don't worry about, be concerned about, be focused on*

Seek: Lit = *to earnestly desire; to search for intensively*

Most of us live in a world where THINGS are the most important in life.

Jesus is telling us...pay attention...Kingdom things are much more important!

3. Actions A Disciple Takes With Money

- **Can't Take It With You So Use What You Have For The Kingdom**

Luke 12:16-21 "And he told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.'"

~Put value on money and possessions...And it was ALL for himself (No needy, No Kingdom, No Hurting)

~God called him a FOOL

~Jesus tells us to "be rich toward God"

Use the physical things we have to make a spiritual difference in our world!

Invest in the things that God values..instead of what we value..our world...our culture values

- **Give To Others The Way You Want God To Give To you (Sowing and Reaping)**

Luke 6:37-38 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

The sowing and reaping principle is found throughout the bible. Look at how this is expressed:

~Image comes from the market: Buying grain (Pressed, shaken running over!)

~How far are you willing to go...do you give the minimum necessary?

~Or do you go out of your way to give good measure when you are giving.

Illus: Giving to a friends ministry in Haiti: extra 6.80 for processing fees...

- **Learn To Handle Money Well And God Will Trust You To Handle More Important Things**

Luke 16:10-11 "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?"

Jesus is making a point here: God entrusts physical wealth to us: The way that we use it determines if he can trust more. More...not just more money...but more of the things of the Kingdom!

If you aren't faithful with how you use physical things...why would he EVER entrust spiritual things...more important

4. Corrections We Need To Make In The Way We Think (Corrections We Need To Make In Our Thinking!) Culture, Tradition, Upbringing, Experiences....

- **You CAN Be Happy And Blessed Without Being Rich**

Luke 6:20-21 "And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

Our world tells us you MUST be wealthy in order to be happy! So we spend our time pursuing wealth...instead of life!

Our pursuit is for all of the wrong things! We ASSUME you must be wealthy...but that's not true!

Wealth does not equal happiness, significance, impact or satisfaction. Life well lived produces those things!

- **Money Is NOT A Sign Of God's Blessing**

Luke 9:25 "For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"

What good does it do if you have everything this life has to offer...but nothing in the one to come

Trade 80 or 100 years...for eternity!

Many times we make the trade: Don't have time for God, Church, Ministry, Service, Be Disciple, Share Other

We push all those things down the road...

Just because we have accumulated a lot of material things...Doesn't mean we are Blessed! Despite what TV says!

- **God Values Sacrifice More Than Amount**

Luke 21:1-4 "Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

We measure all the wrong things! We look at the size of the GIFT. God looks at the size of the sacrifice!

For some...like the widow...two small pennies...was the whole world. Others...vast wealth...nothing

Saw yesterday Bloomberg 500million...fight against coal! = 0.008992%

So...when you look at what you give...measure sacrifice...not amount! That is what God is evaluating

CONCL:

- How is your heart toward money? Does money own and guide your heart...Or is your heart under control?
- Where do you Get Your Attitudes towards money and possession? God...Self...Culture?
- What Actions are you taking with your money? (Using for Kingdom, Sowing and Reaping?, Handle it so trust w more)
- Do you have some misconceptions you need to rearrange in the way you look at financial things, be like Jesus?