

Money: Promises, Pleasures and Perils

Executive Summary:

- Desire to make a better life is one of most innate, noble and God-given characteristics. Motivation is both natural and spiritual; part of way God created us.

Biblical Perspective:

- Bible has a lot to say about God's perspective on money and wealth
- Jesus' parable of the shrewd manager (Luke 16:1-9)
 - "Whoever can be trusted with little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will be dishonest with much"
- God call us to be faithful when it comes to money
- Central biblical perspective (Luke 16:13); "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".

Big Idea: Money is a great servant but a ruthless master

- Starting place to understand god's view of wealth is to see it as His gift. He is the source of all the money we have

Perils of Money Love:

- If you love money, you will forfeit contentment
- Paul, writing to Timothy, explained, "Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that".
- When wealth competes with God in your priorities so that money becomes your master, you are on the road to ruin
- Money Love = Success Sickness
- Parable of the seeds; third seed fell among thorns. Jesus said this represents "the man who hears the Word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful".
- Money will solve my problems, and success will make me happy ... LIE!
- *** *-Success sickness is the disease of always wanting more, but never being happy when we get it*
- Money is morally neutral, so its perils and disappointments are not innate. The danger, however, is in how we relate to it. It never satisfies. It promises freedom, but it enslaves. Accumulation leaves a bitter aftertaste of futility and boredom. The problem with money is that it makes promises it cannot keep.

Money Love Scenarios:

- 1) "I can handle it"
 - 2) "Money will solve my problems"
 - 3) "I can't be happy with less than _____ dollars"
 - 4) "You wear yourself out to make money"
 - 5) "You hoard your money and are not charitable"
- Truths ... Wealth won't you joy - only Jesus can do that. Money is your master when wealth is your goal.

Getting it Right ...

- Content with what you have right now
- Rich toward god, regardless of your financial circumstances
- Generous and charitable
- No hesitation to let fellow Christian look at your checkbook
- You say that money is your servant, and wealth is by-product of bringing glory to God