

Remaster Your Money

A new beginning happens best with wisdom. And if there's anything we should want in times of confusion, it should be wisdom. Other than Jesus, the wisest man ever on earth was Solomon, who offers exactly what we need. Let's revisit the Bible's old wisdom in a new way to give light to a wise path forward.



INTRODUCTION

Pastor David began by reminding us that money is one area of our lives that can master us, dominate us, control us, or destroy us. We can be rich in what we have or be rich in how little we want. However, generosity is how we can become content.

STARTER QUESTION

1 Timothy 6:10 (ESV) reads in part, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils." Did this sermon validate this statement as universally true or help to broaden your view about money? If so, how?

INTO THE WORD

1. Pastor David told us that we are more than our money and that greed and/or worship of wealth can take us away from what should be most important in our lives, including God. Luke 16:13 speaks of how we cannot serve two masters: God and mammon (KJV) / money (ESV). Refer to Luke 12:15-24 for an example of what happens when money is the master. Has money ever taken/is money taking first position in your life? If so, how? How would you advise a friend or family member to avoid this pitfall?
2. Refer to Proverbs 3:9-10, 6:6-8, 11:25, 13:7, 22:7, and 30:8-9. What are some differences between what the world says about money and what the Bible says? Can you think of a few contrasting ideas or principles? In what ways might the world's ideas regarding money bleed into or overlap into what we believe about money based on God's Word?

APPLICATION

3. Pastor David talked about the six different Biblical attitudes towards money and challenged us to apply them to our lives. Which one of these really stood out to you and why? What can you do differently to have a more Biblical outlook when it comes to money? Or in Pastor David's words, how can you worship with your wealth? What are some of the gifts and/or blessings that God has given you that you can bless others with, monetary or non-monetary?
4. How do you think that money may affect your relationships? Would you say it can affect your family relationships, work relationships and even your walk with Jesus? Can you share a few ways this may happen in your everyday life?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please provide the wisdom each of us needs so that we may improve our mindset about money. Lead us to one or more of the six attitudes about money that best relate to our needs. We praise you and thank you for the blessings that you have provided to us, and ask for your guidance in being good stewards of your gifts. In Jesus' Holy Name we pray, Amen.

SUGGESTED ANSWER GUIDE / MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS:

1. For a more in-depth look at what the Bible says about money, read Luke 12:15-24, the Parable of the rich fool, and discuss what Jesus says about money. Jesus reassures them that they will be provided for always. Why is it so hard for us to give up control and trust that God will provide as is stated numerous times throughout the Bible? I would suggest that the friend or family member read scriptures related to money. If I felt that the person was open to my advice, I might also provide examples of the good causes that he/she could support either within the Church or in the community.
2. Pastor David speaks about our attitudes toward money and how there is more to the story behind the ways we approach finances (Proverbs 13:7). Our priorities can reveal what value we place on money and how we may see it. If we feel that we have less than we need or want, we may begin to rely on self, more than on God as our Provider. When we have more than we need or want, we again may look toward our own accomplishments, rather than giving God proper credit for the blessings and gifts He has entrusted us with (Proverbs 30:8-9). Also, reference Matthew 19:21, Revelation 3:17, and Matthew 6:2-4.
3. Consider John 6:35, Acts 20:35, 2 Corinthians 9:7-11, 1 Timothy 6:17, 1 John 3:16-18. These are just a few examples of how the Bible tells us to not trust in riches, but to trust in God who is the giver of all things, and to have compassion on others as He has compassion on us. These scriptures teach us how to worship with our wealth.
4. The concept of worshipping money versus worshipping with our money can be challenging (1 Timothy 6:10 and Hebrews 13:5). When we realize that we are actually only managing the gifts that God grants us in His love, grace and mercy, we can have a healthy impact on those around us with what He's entrusted to us. We can utilize money to worship our Lord and give Him glory. The idea of stewardship allows us to remember that everything belongs to God and is given to us by Him, by grace and not by our own efforts. We can have peace regarding money when we use it to store up treasure in Heaven (Matthew 6:19).