

How Does Money Affect You?

August 16, 2023

Scripture: Matthew 6:25-34

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25. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26. Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27. Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28. And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29. And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith?

31. Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32. (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

Summary: This lesson takes a look at problems associated with handling money and then explains God's plan for handling money.

How does money affect you? Money is a subject with which all of us struggle. For some it is lack of money. For some it is the desire for money. For some it is wrong use of money. For some it is poor investment of money.

A man named Stumpy illustrates how money affects people. Stumpy and his wife Martha went to the state fair every year and every year when Stumpy saw the antique bi-plane he would say, "Martha, I'd like to ride in that airplane." Martha always replied, "I know Stumpy, but that airplane ride costs 10 dollars, and 10 dollars is 10 dollars.

One year Stumpy and Martha went to the fair and Stumpy said, "Martha, I'm 81 years old. If I don't ride that airplane I might never get another chance." Martha replied, "Stumpy, that airplane ride cost 10 dollars, and 10 dollars is 10 dollars.

The pilot overheard them and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take you both up for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say one word, I won't charge you: but if you say one word it's 10 dollars."

Stumpy and Martha agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but not a word was heard. He did all his tricks over again, but still not a word.

When they landed, the pilot turned to Stumpy and said, "By golly, I did everything I could think of to get you to yell out, but you didn't."

Stumpy replied, "Well, I was gonna say something when Martha fell out, but 10 dollars is 10 dollars." (Taken from Great Stories; vol. 6/Issue 24; p. 8)

For Biblical instruction and direction, Mt. 6:25-34. Verse 24 summarizes Jesus teaching in this passage.

"You cannot serve two masters: God and money." (TLB)

In the previous verses Jesus had discussed earthly treasures. From that he launched into a discussion about worry, Jesus used money as the launching point for His teaching about worry.

Money is often the main concern when we worry. I want to lead you in a simple study in order for you to examine money's affect upon your life.

First, I want to discuss the problems associated with handling money.

Second, I want to discuss God's plan for handling money.

1. First, the problems associated with handling money.

Several years ago actor Sylvester Stallone was asked what effect money had on his life. Stallone said:

"Money does not bring peace of mind. Actually it brings more problems. Everything is magnified one hundred thousand times. That's not to complain. But once you make a fortune, you'd think it would be all green lights and blue skies. But that's not true. As a matter of fact, it brings out some of the most vile characteristics that you can imagine." (Taken from Great Stories; vol. 5/issue 17; p. 9)

A. The first problem we face in handling money is that it can cause worry (vs. 25). "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" (NKJV)

Jesus indicated the concern for life's basic needs: food, clothing and water can cause us to worry due to money.

Jesus wanted to help His followers overcome worry. That is my desire today. One church goofed on their church sign by posting this message "Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help."

Ill- What is amazing about worry is that most of what we worry about never materializes. John Haggai tells the story of a woman who worried for 40 years that she was going to die of cancer. Every pain in the stomach was cancer, and she was running to the doctor over each little hurt. She died at age 73 of pneumonia. She had worried for over 40 years over the wrong disease! Worry is a waste of time and energy. (Contributed to Sermon Central by: Timothy Smith)

B. A second problem we face in handling money is that it can lower the quality of life. Jesus asked a vitally important question: "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? (vs. 27...NKJV)

Someone has described this situation well.

Money can buy a bed...but it cannot buy sleep.

Money can buy amusements but it cannot buy happiness.

Money can buy companions but it cannot buy friends.

Money can buy books but it cannot buy brains.

Money can buy a house but it cannot buy a home.

Money can buy medicine but it cannot buy health.

Money can buy flattery but it cannot buy respect.

C. A third problem we face in handling money is that it can lead to bondage. Jesus said ``You cannot serve two masters: God and money.” (Mt. 6:24 NKJV)

Ill- Did you know that during the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco that during the first half of the construction 23 men fell to their deaths in the waters below. It was so dangerous that they stopped construction. Then they built a huge net under the bridge at a cost of \$100,000, so if anyone did fall they would not be hurt. During the second half of the construction only 8 men fell and of course, none of them died. But here’s the amazing thing... during the last half of construction the work proceeded at 25% greater efficiency. Having the net under them didn’t make them more careless it made them more confident & more efficient. (Contributed to Sermon Central by: Timothy Smith) Those workers experienced a new freedom. Money, and the worry that travels with it, can place you in bondage.

Some people struggle to follow Jesus Christ. Let me put in a commercial for Him using these three problems to encourage you. Jesus Christ came to offer us a rich life, free of worry. Jesus Christ came to offer a full life free from bondage and the besetting evil it brings. He came to give you a meaningful life if you follow His teachings.

Why not follow Him? Why not obey His commands? He had you in mind when he came into the world!

2. Second, I want to discuss God's plan for handling money.

A. God wants us to handle money with a right perspective. If you get your perspective of money out of order you will limp through life.

Jesus said "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Mt. 6:20 NKJV) Are you investing in eternity or investing in today? When you get eternity right other aspects of your life will fall into place!

On another occasion Jesus spoke about life perspective. He said "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mt. 16:26 NKJV)

B. God wants us to handle money with a right purpose. In verse 33 Jesus states the purpose of life. The purpose in life is to live for "the kingdom of God". (Mt. 6:33 NKJV) God wants us to live our lives in service to Him.

The apostle Paul describes this purpose "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward" (Col. 3:23-24 NKJV)

C. God wants us to handle money with a right priority.

Notice Jesus description in verse 33 "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." God should have top priority with your money, your time and your heart passion.

Our first and greatest priority in life should be to know Jesus and serve Him with all of our might. We should serve Him with our money, our time and our hearts.