



3) Leading people into financial freedom

10 Lessons on how leaders can help their people apply biblical financial wisdom

Part 3: FINANCE AND LORDSHIP - Part 1

Matthew 6:19-25 (NIV)

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"

So far we have looked at:

1. God wants to be your SOURCE of provision
2. God has GRACE to help with your finances

The next step is to identify WHO IS THE BOSS?

- DEFAULT OPTION: The default setting of the world is that money controls you. Eg. "Money makes the world go round"
- FALSE OPTION: The deception is that we think we control our money. Jesus doesn't give that as an option!
- FAITH OPTION: We make Jesus master or Lord of our finances.

The goal today is to do an honest assessment of whether your finances are still under money as your master.

Symptoms of money as your master:

1. Worry is the big one that Jesus emphasises most.
 - Worry is the sign that you are looking to the wrong master as provider and protector.
 - Worry is counterfeit faith - believing for a negative outcome.

Eg. Many marriages don't have a marriage issue as the root but a financial worry as the root!

- Money stress, money fights, denial, sleepless nights
- These are all symptoms of worry

2. Poverty mentality

Matthew 6:26 (NIV) "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

- If you don't know how valuable you are to your Heavenly Father, you will try and find your value from the father of this world!
- If you don't know how to receive value, love, security and identity from the Father, we will be forced to earn it from the world

- This is the root of a poverty spirit.
- Using money to impress others and as the basis of your identity is a sign of money as your master.
- Is your self image defined by money, possessions, status etc.?

3. **Excessive busyness** - "*pagans run after all these things*".

- Hard work is good and blessed by the Lord.
- But running after money out of fear is not.
- It will cost you your family, your marriage, your health, your faith.

Eg. It was Pharaoh's strategy to keep the Israelites in slavery and not listen to Moses by making them work harder and harder

- The strategy of the world is to make you so money focussed that it tries to squeeze the life of God out of you

4. **Spiritual drift** - You battle staying faithful to God.

- Jesus said that you would love one and hate the other or despise the other.
- So your heart cannot be faithful to both.
- In your mind you want to serve God but your heart always wanders back to serving money.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV)

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

The solution?

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Notice that it starts with a vision change

- "*seek first*" is your motivation
- You shift from being money driven to the pursuit of God's Kingdom

Be honest - whose kingdom are you really seeking?

- If we think we are seeking our own, we are actually seeking the kingdom of the world ruled over by money
- The starting point of victory is an INTENTIONAL decision to put Jesus and His Kingdom first

Notice that this is a **CONDITIONAL PROMISE**

- The promise of God's provision is dependant on your priority
- **BIG IDEA: Provision follows priority**
- Get your priority right before you expect God to get your provision right

BIG IDEA: Either money is your master or Jesus is your master - you have to choose your lord.

Next episode: How do we practically make Jesus Lord of our finances?

QUESTIONS:

1. When you look through the list of symptoms of serving money - do any of them pierce your heart? Why?
2. Based on answer to the first question, who really is in control of your finances? Money or Jesus?
3. Before studying next week's topic on how to make Jesus Lord of your finances, are you willing to say YES to what the Bible teaches?