

Presentation on 100 Huntley Street January 19: Money and your ABC's

Thank you for joining me once again on our money matters trip. Today we will talk about why we need to know our ABC's, our attitude, behavior, and source of choices and not our 123's to handle money matters well.

Author and counselor Bob Phillips says: *A fool may make money but it takes a wise man to spend it.* I would add: This must be godly wisdom.

Many folks believe they need to become financial experts to handle money; but we showed last time, nobody can manage money! The variable to manage is me. God calls us to live lives devoted to Him: to love Him with all our hearts, souls, and minds. So our challenge isn't money but trusting God to supply our needs. Will you trust Him? Will you wait on His timing?

Do you believe what Jesus tells His followers in Matthew Chapter 6? Let's read excerpts from Matthew 6:25-30:

Matthew 6:25-30

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about ... what you will eat or drink; or ... what you will wear ... Look at the birds of the air; ... your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. ... If that is how God clothes the grass of the field ... will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ..."

Do you know Jesus spoke more about money, wealth, and possessions than other items – more than heaven, hell, or faith! It's obvious then, money is important to Him. Sadly, many Bible Colleges and Christian Universities don't equip preachers and Bible teachers with these truths, so these folks don't pass them on!

When we study Jesus' messages about money, we see they refer specifically to our ABC's, not to money itself.

Last time we reviewed the 3 M's of the money transaction and we showed the only controllable item in that equation is me. So, what is it about me I need to manage? I suggest it's what prompts me to spend: My wants, needs and greed nature, which comes from my attitude.

The Dictionary defines attitude as **"a settled opinion or a way of thinking"**. It is what I believe. In today's jargon, it's my **worldview** and it governs how I will behave.

Did you get that? Your attitude, what you believe about money, governs how you behave with money. We need to camp here for a moment.

When I was much younger, my mother drilled into me that I should save to buy items. This formed part of my attitude toward money and continues to affect my behavior with money today.

That's why I never use a credit card unless I have corresponding funds in the bank. So, I have never paid interest on a credit card balance because I believe a credit card is not a source of funding. That's my attitude toward credit cards, today's popular money.

Folks all I am saying is we must spend time understanding our attitude toward money, wealth, and possessions. If we don't, advertising will drag us along and we will descend into debt and depression.

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In Luke 12:15 Jesus replied to someone who asked about the equitable division of his inheritance.

Luke 12:15

Jesus said ... "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Jesus is telling us to develop the right attitude toward money, wealth, and possessions. After saying this, He told a parable about a rich man who built large barns to store material things so he could take life easy later; but he never lived to enjoy the stuff he set aside!

The late Colonel Sanders puts it this way: *There is no need to be the richest man in the cemetery.*

For next time, mull over these questions:

1. How would you describe your attitude toward money?
2. What influenced your most recent major spending decision?
3. What formed your attitude that is now affecting how you handle money?

God bless you and thank you for inviting me into your home.

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