



## Managing GOD's Money

**T**oday a new journey starts for me as I end these commentaries. Thank you for allowing me in your home, for your encouraging e-mail messages, and for your prayers. I would like to recap some key points we discussed this year to remind you of some money management essentials to take with you in the New Year.

The foundation for our money matters trip is the **GAS Principle** that highlights our role as stewards:

1. God owns everything (Psalm 24:1-2)
2. Accept what you have (Hebrews 13:5)
3. Seek first His Kingdom (Matthew 6:33); submit your requests to Him (Proverbs 19:21)

Jesus spoke more about money wealth and possessions than other topics, so we know **money matters** to Jesus. The essence of His teachings is this: **Be willing to present all to Him**; He will take care of believers on earth and He guarantees us eternal life with Him!

But most important understand we can't manage money, rather we must manage us: our **attitudes, behavior and choices (ABC's)**. So we must know right **ABC's**.

Jesus shows the **right attitude** to money in **Mark 9:41-44**, the widow's mite, and in **Mark 10:17-21**, the Rich Young Ruler. Let's review each passage:

<sup>41</sup>Jesus ... watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. ... a poor widow ... put in two very small copper coins...  
<sup>43</sup>Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "...this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup>They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything...."  
--- **Mark 9:41-44**

Notice three points:

**First**, Jesus was **watching** people put money in the treasury; **a deliberate act**.

**Second**, He used this act as a **teaching moment** for His disciples and us.

**Third**, His message: it's not how much you give but your **willingness** to present **everything to Him**.

Jesus reinforces this message in the parable of the Rich Young Ruler:

... sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ... he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.

--- Mark 10:17-21

This man wanted eternal life on his terms! He “gripped” money with a closed palm! We can’t take stuff with us when we die, so why not trust Jesus to supply our needs as He promises, and open our palms. Job got it right; this week, visit a cemetery as you meditate on Job 1:20-21:

...“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart.<sup>£</sup>  
The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” --- Job 1:20-21

Before closing let me remind you of 7-money management essentials we discussed this year:

1. **Invite Jesus** to be your Lord and Saviour
2. **Accept and carry out the GAS Principle**
3. **Know the 3-M’s of Money (Me, Money, Merchant):** You can’t manage money or merchants, you control your ABC’s
4. **Practice biblical ABC’s**
5. **Save to buy** stuff; **plug** holes to stop leaking expenses
6. **Use helpful tools:** PEACE Budgetary Control System, Capital Fund, Affordability Index, on my website
7. **Recognize** and **deal with conflicts of interest** when an adviser will benefit financially from his or advice

Like Elisha’s servant in 2 Kings 6, our circumstances preoccupy us so we don’t see Jesus’ plans for us. Remember, Jesus knows every detail of your life. Give Him your burdens; leave them with Him so you can focus on the two the matters He says are most important:

1. **Love Him with all your heart, mind and soul**
2. **Love your neighbour as yourself**

Apostle Peter tells us in **2 Peter 1: 3**, God has given us everything we need for life and godliness! Will you trust Jesus? Will you obey Him? What have you got to lose?

Jesus says “**Come**”, follow Me! Are you following Him? If you are, listen, He says “**Go**”, make disciples! Are you living to give to help make disciples? If you don’t know Jesus as Lord and Saviour, He is waiting on your call. Cry out to Him today, He will reply to you!

God bless and remember, Jesus loves you so much He died for you!