

January Presentation on 100 Huntley Street

January 26: Right ABC's from the Bible

Last time we saw that your attitude shapes your behavior—how much you spend, on what, and when. Did your answers to last week's questions surprise you? Here are the questions again:

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?

Review them after today's session. Meanwhile, let's peek at three lessons from Jesus about the right attitude toward money:

1. In **Matthew 6:24**, Jesus tells us **we cannot serve two masters, we must choose between God and money.**
2. Then in **Matthew 19:16-30**, He shows us **what it means to serve money** in the parable of the **rich young man who loved money so much He wouldn't give it up for God.**
3. And **Luke 22:42** shows the **right attitude to life**: Obedience to God. We see **Jesus' obedient attitude to His Father**, as He prepared to take on our sins.

Let's consider these passages more closely.

In **Matthew Chapter 6**, Jesus continued His sermon on the mount. While teaching about money, He tells us not to worry about providing for our needs, but to focus on seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness.

Jesus' message: We should devote our lives to serving Him and He will take care of our needs. Just concentrate on what He has called us to do; He takes care of the rest.

Our challenge: tailoring our needs to fit what He provides. Did you get that? We must adjust our lifestyles to fit what God prepares for us.

We cannot love God with all our hearts and spend money without first consulting Jesus. That's the message in the parable of the rich young man. That man didn't want to give up money to follow God; it was His god! Does God want each of us to sell everything and give to the poor? No, He wants us to serve Him wholeheartedly, ready to do everything He asks! He is calling us to love Him with all our hearts, souls, and minds; to surrender every decision to Him, including financial matters!

Jesus teaches us to view and hold money as part of our love relationship with Him. Indeed, He went beyond parables and displayed His obedience to His Heavenly Father by paying for our past present and future sins on the cross, and then rising again. We who follow Christ have victory through this; we have eternal life.

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So money matters like buying a home or paying university fees should be integral to living our personal relationship with Jesus. As our Perfect Father, He wants us to come to Him and to depend on Him. Do you see this?

These days we live in silos in which we behave differently at work, at church, and with money matters. We must ensure we apply the same attitude—the attitude of Christ—to all we do at home, at work, at church or in the family.

Jesus also teaches how we should spend money.

In Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus tells of the parable of the Master giving his servants money as he went on a trip. The Master returns and two servants used the money wisely but one didn't. That one looked at himself and his circumstances and did nothing.

Let's remember Jesus is coming again. We should use for His glory, time, talents, money, and other possessions He has given us; no matter how small they are. How we use them, will decide how much more we will get, and shows our relationship with Jesus.

The Master in the parable praised the servant's faithful handling of what he had. That's the attitude we ought to adopt with everything He has given us. Isn't the message in Matthew 25:21 what each of us wants to hear? Let's read it:

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things...."

To get this attitude we need to ensure we know Christ as personal Lord and Savior, and the Bible is the source of our choices.

Next time we will ask: Are you in a financial COMA?

God bless and remember Jesus loves you.