

## **MONEY: GOD'S WAY.**

**No money, no job, what the heck.**



At some time or other most people face growing debt, little or no savings, insufficient income and no financially secure future. This brings tension right into the home which pressurizes marriages and families.

Many others have enough money but don't realize that materialism is suffocating them spiritually. The wealth that they amass will only become a burden and source of unhappiness if it is spent on temporary pleasures.

Jesus is the one who has drawn the battle lines. It is actually a declaration of war. He will not be shared with anything, least of all money.

*Luke 16<sup>13</sup> "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."*

Why? Why is money such an issue for Jesus?

It is because we ascribe to anything we worship the power to:

- Give us a sense of significance or failure.
- Control our emotions; give us joy or despair which leads to depression.
- Control the lives of other people; it gives us power over people.

When we ascribe something or someone the ability to occupy such a central part of our lives we serve it, it becomes our lord and king. This is the place the Lord needs to occupy.

When we have a global money crisis triggered by greed it is in essence the kingdom of satan exercising his control.

**This is our Kingdom perspective:**

**In God's Kingdom money is used to bless people, not to control them and least of all to honour us.**

*Matt 6 <sup>2</sup> "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth; they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

**There is no reward for having a lot of money stashed away. It looks significant to us but has NO heavenly reward. See also Luke 12: 18-21**

*Matt 6 <sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... <sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.*

**That which brings us peace or worry reveals who is in control of our lives. The extent of that peace or worry is the same extent that we have handed over the reigns of our lives.**

*Matt 6 <sup>25</sup> "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 important than food, and the body more important than clothes? <sup>26</sup> 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?*

**The bible is not a blueprint of how to handle money. It is a blueprint of our relationship with the Lord and then money (our provision) is a "fruit" of that relationship.**

*Matt 6 <sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore*

*do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

*Luke 16 <sup>11</sup> So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?<sup>12</sup> And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?*

**God is my life.**

**The next breath I breathe and beat of my heart is a gift from God.**

*Acts 17 <sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.*

**He IS in control.**

*1 Chron 29 You are great and powerful, glorious, splendid, and majestic. Everything in heaven and earth is yours, and you are king, supreme ruler over all. <sup>12</sup>All riches and wealth come from you; you rule everything by your strength and power; and you are able to make anyone great and strong. <sup>13</sup>Now, our God, we give you thanks, and we praise your glorious name.*

**Because our relationship is a priority to the Lord His care for us flows out of this relationship.**

*Romans 8 <sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

How must I respond?

**We need to be faithful stewards of God's resources.**

When we find the Kingdom of God there isn't a portioning of our dues. In other words once I have given my 10% my duty is done.

*Matt 13 <sup>44</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

*Matthew 25: 14-30*

- This is a parable on how the Kingdom of God works. Notice that the resources He expects us to handle are the things He has given to us in the first place. They are not things gathered due to our own brilliance.
- We need to be faithful with that which we have and not worry about what others have.
- We must not be ignorant, lazy or uncaring it will lead to our downfall.
- God takes a direct interest in how we manage His resources.

## Group notes – Money God’s way

### Ice Breaker

Go around the room and try to find some “small” way you can encourage, give something or just support someone, even if you write out an IOU for “baby sitting” or lawn mowing or just making a coffee appointment. Sow something of yourself.

### What’s the Word?

In what way are our emotions connected to how much or how little money we have?

Why are our emotions such a frail basis to build our faith upon?

Paul finds a great place of peace and puts it this way, <sup>11</sup> *I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.* <sup>12</sup> *I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.* <sup>13</sup> *I can do everything through him who gives me strength”. Phil 4. What do you think is the secret that Paul discovered?*

Do you think the Lord wants to take care of us because we obey the Biblical principles of sowing and reaping or because He loves us or both?

Sometimes it is difficult to have hope and proceed with faith because of lack. We kind of bury our heads until we can feel better about what we have rather than what we don’t have. Draw up a list of your assets and liabilities. The aim is to let this document become the “battleground” for your faith. When we pray general prayers and just have a vague hope it is very difficult to have a faith expectation. A revelation of who the Father is to you and His ability to intervene is what unlocks miracles.

### Prayer

Pray for each other and commit yourselves to each other for the journey.