

“Show Me The Money” * Luke 12:13-34
June 29, 2008

I. The Bible and Money – a very timely subject

*Financial freedom does not begin with what’s in your wallet
but with what is in your _____.*

Three Attitudes To Hold When It Comes To Money

Attitude #1: Be on your guard against all kinds of _____.

A. *What is greed?*

Greed is “_____ and _____-centered acquisitiveness”

B. *What **incorrect** conclusions might we draw from the story of the rich farmer?*

1. *God doesn’t want us to store up for the _____.*

2. *God doesn’t want us to have _____ barns.*

3. *God doesn’t want us to eat, drink and be _____.*

C. *So why was God upset with this farmer? Why was he a “fool”?*

Attitude #2: Let God receive your _____, while you receive God’s _____.

A. *How is “worry” different from “concern”?*

Worry is “_____ concern”.

B. *What mind-blowing thing does Paul say in Phil.4:11?*

C. *So when I face a problem, what things do I need to do?*

D. *How does Philippians 4:6 describe this?*

E. *Does this “peace” mean everything will turn out as I want?*

F. *What does 1 Timothy 6:6 say?*

Attitude #3: Seek _____ God’s _____.

A. *Why doesn’t life consist in the abundance of our possessions?*

B. *What does life consist of first and foremost then?*

C. *Where Bill Gates and Madelyn Murray O’Hare differ.*

Assignment For The Week:

“Show Me The Money” * Luke 12:13-34
June 29, 2008

Worry is “excessive concern”.

I. The Bible and Money – a very timely subject

Financial freedom does not begin with what’s in your wallet but with what is in your heart.

Three Attitudes To Hold When It Comes To Money

Attitude #1: Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.

A. What is greed?

Greed is “excessive and self-centered acquisitiveness”

*B. What **incorrect** conclusions might we draw from the story of the rich farmer?*

1. God doesn’t want us to store up for the future.

2. God doesn’t want us to have bigger barns.

3. God doesn’t want us to eat, drink and be merry.

C. So why was God upset with this farmer? Why was he a “fool”?

Because he was not ‘rich toward God’. God was nowhere in his line of sight.

Attitude #2: Let God receive your worry, while you receive God’s peace.

A. How is “worry” different from “concern”?

Concern can be good. It’s looking ahead and anticipating challenges. It’s counting the count. Concerns leads us to be proactive. Worry though achieves nothing and motivates nothing. Concern energizes. Worry deflates.

B. What mind-blowing thing does Paul say in Phil.4:11?

“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

C. So when I face a problem, what things do I need to do?

You have an area of concern. Maybe it’s the safety of your children. Maybe it’s your household budget. Maybe it’s your health. Maybe it’s rumors that your job is about to be cut. What should you do as a Christian? You pray about it. Always a good start. Talk to God about it. Then you talk to people whose wisdom you trust. You then do what you can, what’s in your power, to address it, as you sense God leading. But then you must go on to the next step. You have to give it to God. You have to emotionally release it. You have to exercise your faith by saying, “Alright God, I’ve done what I can do here. It’s now out of my hands. I can’t do anything more to shape the outcome. And so whatever happens now is in your hands, and I will accept your will and purposes in my life.” When you give something to God, that’s what you do and that’s what you say. And if you mean it, then peace is the end result.

D. How does Philippians 4:6 describe this?

“Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.”

E. Does this “peace” mean everything will turn out as I want?

No. God’s purposes and God’s timing are often hidden from us on the front-end of things. But later, we look back and say, “God I can now see your hand in what we went through. Thank you.” But that’s not when we’re supposed to have the peace, at the end of things. We’re supposed to have the peace all the way through, especially during those dark and uncertain days.

F. What does 1 Timothy 6:6 say?

“Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.”

Attitude #3: Seek first God’s kingdom.

A. Why doesn’t life consist in the abundance of our possessions?

They wear out. We wear out. They can’t give us eternity.

B. What does life consist of first and foremost then?

It’s the two great commandments. True life consists in loving God and loving people. In the end life is all about the relationships we forge with God and with one another.

C. Where Bill Gates and Madelyn Murray O’Hare differ.

Madalyn Murray O’Hair, the infamous atheist who disappeared without a trace, kept a diary. At least a half dozen times scattered throughout her journal were the words, “Somebody, somewhere love me.” People who don’t seek God first, people who work their lives away and spend their days chasing money, who invest only in themselves, will sooner or later discover the cancer of loneliness eating away their souls. But when we invest in God by putting him first, and when we invest in others, life suddenly becomes rich beyond measure.

Bill Gates retired just this past week: he stepped down from his leadership role at Microsoft. Whatever you may think of Bill Gates, his wealth, his company, his software, you have to tip your hat to him. He and his wife are going to focus most of their energy on the foundation which they set up to improve education and health around the world. Whatever you may think of him, this is not the rich farmer of Jesus’ story. I’m not saying that Bill Gates is seeking first God’s kingdom – but this is a step in the right direction.

Assignment For The Week:

Research the book of Proverbs and write out any verses you find which pertain to giving or money.