

Whom will you serve?

Money and the Word

Small Groups Winter 2010

Introduction

Welcome back to small groups! At the beginning of 2010, we are going to look into the Bible to see what it has to say about money. There are at least 250 verses in the Bible about money. Though our studies will not exhaust all these verses, at the end of our time with Money and the Word, we should all have a better understanding of what the Bible has to say about money and where we can go to when we need direction concerning money... THE WORD!

Go around your circle and answer the following: Would you rather have the problem of too much money or not having enough money? Why?

What did Jesus teach?

This week we are going to look at a **foundational** verse concerning **money**. Scripture views money as a god whom you can serve. You can be a slave to money or money can be your slave. Read **Luke 16:13**. Spend some time discussing this verse using the questions below.

- What are ways we can serve money rather than God?
- Our God is a Jealous God (jealous for our complete devotion) – but money is also a jealous god. In what ways does it devour us and demand our complete devotion?
- What does it mean to despise or hate money? How is this possible when money is needed to live our lives here on earth? Read **Luke 14:26** also to see another reference where hate is used.
- How can we practice putting gold UNDER our feet (make it our slave) here on earth before walking the streets of gold in Heaven?
- Why do we ignore the struggle of serving money compared to our struggle in blatantly serving Satan?

Just as *grace is power* for a believer, *money is power* for the unbeliever.

Let God be enough and provide

It is in our sinful nature to love money and not to love Christ. Only God can change us to be able to serve God and not money.

Jesus taught how this is possible. Read [Luke 18:18-29](#).

Jesus saw the heart of this rich young ruler. He knew he had great wealth. How do you think this rich young ruler was allowing his wealth to rule him?

Why would Jesus ask him to sell everything he had? Jesus was offering Him riches of a far greater eternal value when He said “come, follow me”. Jesus was in essence giving the same invitation he gave His disciples when He asked them to leave their vocations knowing that they would now be poor in this world. Comment on why Jesus pulls us out of our financial comfort zone when we follow Him.

In your perspective, why didn't Jesus tell the rich young ruler he had to give what he had to Judas, the treasurer, and come follow Him?

In this suffering economy, with the jobless rate on the rise, it feels like we have an excuse to serve money and we can get back to making God number one when times are easier. But, God's ways are not ours! So, how do we use money yet not serve money? How can we give up any life purpose to acquire wealth that we may have?

Is God asking for a life of complete poverty?

Poverty is NOT a state of spiritual greatness. Yet, God is asking us to put Him on the throne of our lives and then He will provide our needs. Read [Matthew 17:24-27](#) and [Matthew 14:13-21](#). Both times fish were used as provision, once financially and once for food. Give God Glory and tell of a time He provided for you.

Spend time in prayer

Ask God to show you any area of your life where you have made money a god. Ask God to free you from the love of money so that God can be first in your life.

What is forthcoming?

Be sure to return for all of these small group lessons as we learn what the word says about earning, saving, spending and giving money.