

ANOTHER NEW NORMAL

Money January 15, 2022

OPENING QUESTION

What is something you desire that money cannot purchase?

When you think of getting a raise, or a job with a higher wage, what do you look forward to about that (tangible and intangible)?

Another New Normal is helping us recognize that the flourishing life God has for us is found *within* the borders He has given. Pushing the edges of these boundaries more often results in difficulty and sin, not in greater abundance. As we take a look at our relationship to money this week, we want to once again see the limits we've been given as God's gifts for our flourishing and fullness, believing that "The boundary lines have fallen in pleasant places for me." (Ps 16:6)

READ Psalm 24:1-2, Malachi 3:6-12, Acts 17:24-25

What do these verses highlight about God, His actions and His character?

- Does this understanding match the world's story about you and your money and your possessions?
- Compare and contrast how you treat something borrowed with something you own.

READ THE PASSAGE Luke 16:1-15

This is a challenging parable! Some helpful quotes have been placed in the margin; more resources are available with the QR code.

What do you notice about the steward in this story? (Consider his thoughts and actions toward the master, the people, the money, and himself)

- Why do you think he didn't attempt to repair his relationship with the master?

What do you think verse 13 means?

- What words or actions reveal the steward's true master in this story?
- What would be some signs that money has a mastery role in your life?
 - What actions or thoughts would reveal a higher devotion to God than money?
- What practical steps would help you to create some margin, some distance, some limits between you and the power of money?
- Why do you think money and greed are such a powerful rivals to God in our lives?

FROM THE MESSAGE

Dirk shared that there's a difference between your standard of living and your quality of life; Jesus is more interested in our quality of life. The parables highlights that people are more important than possessions.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21 How does this verse shed light on why talking about money can feel so vulnerable?

Continuing the graph illustration from last week, we were asked: **Do you have the margin in your budget to be able to be generous, and to give money to things that change lives for eternity?**

DAILY TIME

Deuteronomy 8

1 Timothy 6:3-19

Matthew 5:1-12, 6:1-4

James 5:1-9

Deuteronomy 15:1-11

Mark 12:41-44

Psalm 37

As you read each day, consider:
What does this show me about God and His character?
What perspective does this give on my heart and acts?
Considering those, how will I respond?

Nerf Blast!

January 22 at 4 pm

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NOTES AND QUOTES

16:8 "It cannot mean that Jesus advocates unscrupulous business practices. The point is that the manager used resources under his control (though not properly his) to prepare for his own future." (DA Carson, p 94)

"The children of this world ruthlessly manage their resources to secure their future; the children of God graciously manage their resources because their future is already secure." (Stephen Um, p 94)

The security of money is temporary, not eternal. The grace of God is eternal, not temporary.
Which does my heart treasure?
Which do I rely on?



- Can anyone share how generosity has had an impact on their faith – whether it's in giving or being the recipient of generosity?
- What are some practical tricks, tools or helps for learning to “spy” on your money, or that can help you form new habits around your money? (“Spying” on your money is the way we talked about becoming aware of your practical budget – where your money is going.)

EXTRA: Read *Matthew 6:19-34*, noticing our key verse repeated in 6:24
How does this context add to your concept of what it means to be a servant of God instead of a servant of money?

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Spend time in prayer for one another, if possible, about the things you have discussed here.

PRAYER AND CARE

Reminders for the week ahead:

“If all possessions belong to God, is there anything that is *really* mine/ours? There is. The small part of God’s truth that we manage to understand and struggle to live out is truly ours, and we will ‘take it with us.’” (*Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes*, p 380)

Luke 16:1-15

He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. 2And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ 3And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ 5So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ 7Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your

bill, and write eighty.’ 8The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. 9And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

10 “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. 11If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? 13No servant can serve two masters, for 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 God