

Managing Money to Love (Part 4)

Luke 16:14-18; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; March 3, 2019

The Text

¹⁴ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. ¹⁵ And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God. ¹⁶ “The Law and the Prophets *were proclaimed* until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. ¹⁷ But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail. ¹⁸ “Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery. - Luke 16:14-18

1. Remember we are stewards, not owners.

¹⁴ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were *listening to all these things* and were scoffing at Him. - Luke 16:14

Why should we see this passage as a continuation of the discussion of money?

- Because it is sandwiched between the parable of the unrighteous steward and the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. (Luke 16:1-9; 16:19-31)
- Because it begins with a reference to the Pharisees as scoffing at what has just been said and that they were lovers of money. (Luke 16:14)
- Because 'that which is highly esteemed among men' is probably a reference to wealth and especially putting our hope in wealth/money/possessions in regard to our help and happiness. (Luke 16:15)

What has Jesus been saying?

Life is about stewardship, not ownership. (Luke 16:1)

Do I see myself as a manager or steward? A good one or a bad one? Good money management requires that we ...

- Be humble ('I haven't been the manager I should be.'). (Luke 15:13; 16:1)
- Be strategic ('I need to be wise with my money.'). (Luke 16:8)
- Think ahead ('I need to use money in light of eternity.'). (Luke 16:9)
- Be serious ('I need to remember that how I use money impacts a lot of things'). (Luke 16:10)

- Seek to be rich ('I need to use money to seek to be spiritually rich.'). (Luke 16:11)
- Practice delayed gratification ('I need to use money to gain eternal reward.'). (Luke 16:12)
- Delight in God ('I need to guard my heart regarding money and not let it replace God.'). (Luke 16:13)

Do these things shape your budget/spending?

2. Resist the world's perspective on money.

¹⁴ Now the Pharisees, who were *lovers of money*, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. ¹⁵ And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God. - Luke 16:14-15

What is a 'lover of money'? Am I a 'lover of money'?

- It is not simply a 'greed' issue. (Colossians 3:5)

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and **greed**, which amounts to idolatry. – Colossians 3:5

- It is a 'heart issue' not simply a 'practice' issue. (Mark 12:41)

⁴¹ And He sat down opposite the treasury, and *began* observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. ⁴³ Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on." – Mark 12:41-44

- It is anyone who looks at money as a 'promise' and a 'path' in place of God.
 - Money is a 'promise' because having money promises me help for my future needs. (Proverbs 18:11)

A rich man's wealth is his strong city,
And like a high wall in his own imagination. – Proverbs 18:11
 - Money is a 'path' because having money opens the door for me to obtain or do what I believe will bring me happiness/pleasure. (Luke 12:19)

And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.” – Luke 12:19

- Because we are all sinners, we are all prone to be ‘lovers of money’ at certain times, in certain ways, and to a certain degree.

What was a Pharisee? Am I like the Pharisees?

- They were the ‘cream of the crop’ – if anyone went to heaven, in popular opinion, it would be the Pharisees. (Matthew 5:20)

“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. – Matthew 5:20

- They were the ‘separatists’ – they separated themselves from people who weren’t ‘devoted to God’ and operated in the ‘no’ mode. (Luke 5:30)

The Pharisees and their scribes *began* grumbling at His disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?” – Luke 5:30

- They were ‘legalists’ – it was all about the Law (not about grace).
 - They believed in some form of ‘salvation by works.’ (Romans 10:1-4)

Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation.
² For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. ³ For not knowing about God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. – Romans 10:1-4

- They majored on the minors in order to live up to the saving standard. (Matthew 23:23)

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. – Matthew 23:23

- They ignored the spirit of the Law and focused on outward, public actions. (Matthew 23:25-28)

²⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. ²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. – Matthew 23:25-28

- They made up their own rules of what 'godliness' looked like. (Matthew 15:1-9)

Then some Pharisees and scribes *came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ² "Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." ³ And He answered and said to them, "Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.' ⁵ But you say, 'Whoever says to *his* father or mother, "Whatever I have that would help you has been given *to God*," ⁶ he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And *by this* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. ⁷ You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: ⁸ 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. ⁹ 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'" – Matthew 15:1-9

- They were 'scoffers' ('turned their nose up') – they rejected anything that challenged what they loved!

But they *continually* mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, until there was no remedy. – 2 Chronicles 36:16

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night. – Psalm 1:1-2

Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you. – Proverbs 9:8

- This 'legalism' is why they scoffed at Jesus and His teaching because it contradicted all these things.
- They were considered the 'most religious' and the 'most truth-loving' and the 'most God-loving' but, in reality, they were the 'most irreligious' and the 'most truth-hating' and the 'most God-hating'!

Why does God hate 'money loving'?

- Sinners always have perverted values! We love what we should hate and we hate what we should love or we love little what we should love much and love much what we should love little!

“Has a nation changed gods
When they were not gods?
But My people have changed their glory
For that which does not profit.
¹²“Be appalled, O heavens, at this,
And shudder, be very desolate,” declares the LORD.
¹³“For My people have committed two evils:
They have forsaken Me,
The fountain of living waters,
To hew for themselves cisterns,
Broken cisterns
That can hold no water. – Jeremiah 2:11-13

- It causes people to look to money for help and happiness instead of God. (Matthew 6:24-33)
- It turns a means into an ‘end.’ (Romans 1:22-25)

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. – Romans 1:22-25

- It gives people the illusion of God’s favor. (Luke 16:19-31)
- It leads to destruction. (1 Timothy 6:6-10; 1 Corinthians 5:11) – unrepentant money-lovers will not go to heaven!

⁶ But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. ⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. ⁸ If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. – 1 Timothy 6:6-10

But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. – 1 Corinthians 5:11

- 3. Invest in the kingdom to come.**
- 4. Make the connection between unfaithfulness in marriage and unfaithfulness with money.**
- 5. Check your heart by looking at your checkbook.**

Bottom Line: The issue of money is not how much I have or what I spend my money on per se, but my heart attitude towards money and how that impacts my hope in God and my love for others. (Luke 16:19-31)