

## LESSON 11: MONEY &amp; POSSESSIONS

**“What should be my attitude toward money and possessions?”**

**KEY = HEART ATTITUDE**

One of the greatest temptations we face as Christians in America is the tremendous materialism in our culture. We are geared to think that success is measured by the abundance of our material wealth. In reality, a man's success is measured by fulfilling God's plan for his life.

The Bible has a great deal to say about our attitudes toward physical possessions and how they can affect our lives. The purpose of this study is to determine how God would have us deal with this matter in light of biblical principles.

**I. You do NOT have to be poor to please God!**

This is very important to understand. Spirituality is NOT measured by either the abundance of or lack of material goods. Nowhere in the Bible does God specifically condemn anyone simply for having money. Instead, he deals with their attitude.

- D. The Bible does NOT say that money is the root of all evil. It says,  
*“...the love of money is the root of all evil...”*

1 Timothy 6:10



B. Many godly Bible characters were wealthy.

1. Solomon was the wealthiest man in history, yet observe his conclusion of this matter.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

2. Job was the wealthiest man of his day (Job 1:3), yet when all his wealth was gone, observe his attitude. His issue was one of priorities rather than wealth.

Job 1:20-22 says, *Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*

3. Even the Lord Jesus Christ was accompanied by a group of wealthy women who provided for him materially.

Luke 8:1-3 “...which ministered unto him of their substance.”

John 12:3 Mary took “...a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly...”

**II. At what point does money interfere with my relationship with God?**

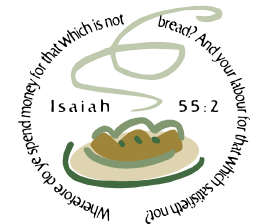
- A. When...you trust in money rather than trusting in God.

Mark 10:23-27; Proverbs 11:4

Proverbs 11:28 says, “*He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.*”

- B. When...your affections are set on earthly possessions instead of heavenly possessions.

Matthew 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-4



- C. When...you think your own spirituality, another man’s spirituality or God’s blessings can be measured by material possessions.

Luke 12:15 says “*And he said unto them, Take heed; and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*”

See also: 1 Samuel 16:7

- D. When...your objective in life becomes to earn as much money as possible.

Proverbs 23:4; Ecclesiastes 5:10-12

Note: Take time to ask yourself these questions: “What is the objective in my life,” “When is enough, enough?”

- E. When...you think that you provide for your own needs instead of God providing them.

Philippians 4:19 says, *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

Read also: Deuteronomy 8:10-18

**III. What are the proper attitudes I should develop toward physical possessions?**

As we enter into this section, consider that when we truly give our life to God, we give him everything. All of our resources have been provided by God and are, therefore, “on loan” to us. Do we treat them as if they belong to Him?

- A. First and foremost, BE CONTENT with what you have. Understand—to be content is not to grudgingly resign yourself to accept your state, but to rest satisfied in God’s provision; realizing whatever you have been given is a blessing.

- 1. We are to be content with our possessions.

Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:8



- 2. We are to be content in whatever state we find ourselves, resting in the Lord Jesus Christ.


Philippians 4:11 says, *“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content”*—Note that Paul wrote these words while in jail!

- B. Realize that there are many things that are far more important than money, which money cannot buy.

- 1. **Wisdom**      *Proverbs 16:16 - “How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!”*

- 2. **A righteous life**      *Psalm 37:16 - “A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.”*

See also: Proverbs 28:6, 16:8

- 3. **A good night's sleep** Ecclesiastes 5:12
- 4. **God's Word** *Psalm 119:127 - "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold."*  
  
 See also: Psalm 119:14, 72
- 5. **Good health** Luke 8:43
- 6. **Quietness and peace** *Ecclesiastes 4:6 – "Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit."*  
 See also: Proverbs 15:16, 17:1

C. If and when God blesses you physically, don't forget Him.

*Proverbs 30:7-9 says, "Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."*

See also: Deuteronomy 6:10-12; Revelation 3:17

D. Realize that if God takes all your wealth away, it should not affect your relationship with Him.

Job 1:20-22

E. Don't be envious of someone else's wealth.

*Psalm 49:16-17 says, "Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him."*

See also: Exodus 20:17

F. Stay away from "get rich quick" schemes.

Proverbs 20:21, 28:20, 22



**IV. You must strike a proper balance in your attitude toward money and possessions.**

Proverbs 11:1 says, *“A false balance is abomination to the Lord...”* Let’s take a look at this principle.

- A. The same Bible that says not to worry about your physical provisions in Matthew 6:25-34, also says that if a man doesn’t provide for his family he is worse than an infidel in 1 Timothy 5:8.
  
- B. The same Bible that says *“...the love of money is the root of all evil...”* also says, *“...the laborer is worthy of his reward.”* 1 Timothy 5:17-18.

Note: These are not contradictory statements, but balancing principles to show you how to handle physical possessions.

**V. What will God provide for me?**

God promises to provide for your NEEDS (Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:25-34) and those NEEDS will be physical as well as spiritual.

You must realize that our culture the media and advertising have a tremendously negative materialistic influence on you. Guard yourself. Make sure your major desires are spiritual instead of physical.

- A. You must discern (or distinguish) between NEEDS and WANTS. This is a very difficult thing to do, especially in our society. Compare the following verses on needs and wants.
  - 1. Needs
    - James 2:15-16      Food and clothing
    - Hebrews 4:15-16      Mercy and grace in time of need
    - Mark 2:25      Food
  
  - 2. Wants
    - Psalm 23:1      *“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”*
    - Proverbs 13:25      *“The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want.”*

- Philippians 4:11 *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*
- James 1:4 *“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

B. You must understand that you can never “get enough” material wealth and be satisfied. You will always WANT something more. Only God can quench your thirst for more.

John 6:35 says, *“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”*

**VI. Memory Verses**

**Philippians 4:11** Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, [therewith] to be content.

**Philippians 4:19** But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**Colossians 3:2** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.