

Money requires PURPOSE and FAITH to operate optimally.

- Purpose: direction; meaning; intention; “Why?”
- Faith: money is a seed of something much bigger, fuller;

Money is designed to move. Currency.

When it's moving...

- It's engaged
- It's activated to increase
- It attracts and creates more of itself

Matt 6:19

“Do not store up...”

Jesus starts His teaching on money by stating it was never designed to sit idle.

- Moving, faith-inspired treasures are immune to moth, rust and thieves
 - o Practically speaking, **inflation** is a moth that eats idle money
 - o Inflation (higher prices) for 2 main reasons (especially currently)
 - Demand outweighs supply
 - Money is provided without goods or services produced to earn it
 - This results in higher production costs – materials and wages
- Idle money provides emotional security
- Idle money can easily become an idol
 - o Anything trusted in other than God is an idol

Matt 6:19-21

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Question: How do you store up treasures in heaven?

First, “in heaven” is a heart posture. A way of thinking that is beyond this world and engages the heart of the Father.

It is a way of life that considers the earth from the perspective of heaven.

So to “store up treasures in heaven” is to spend, invest and give like the Father would.

Since the kingdom is always increasing (Isaiah 9:7), using money with the heart of the Father engages heavenly principles immune to degradation and loss.

PURPOSE and FAITH is how the Father invests and spends His resources.

- Everything He does has purpose. What’s that purpose?
 - o **The restoration and abundant life of His children**
 - o For ourselves and others
- Everything He does, He does by faith.
 - o He sees something better than what currently exists.
 - o He invests to get what He sees
 - o He sees money as a MEANS to an end goal, not the end goal.

1 Tim 6:6-10

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.

James 5:1-6

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! 4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5 You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents (READ)

Initially, we work for money. Production or service = \$

If we are wise, we don't spend all we make.

- What we consume = bread
- What we don't consume = seed

We gather seed in preparation for opportunity. When opportunity appears, we sow our seed.

- Farmers know it's time sow their seed when the climate and conditions are right.
- Nature naturally sows seed and we realize it when the climate and conditions are right.

While the seed begins its death, rebirth, growth and harvest cycle, we continue working to make \$.

- The seed brings forth a harvest.
- This is a pivotal moment. We have to decide the harvest is MORE SEED.
- If we make that decision, we don't turn our seed into bread and instead we SOW THE HARVEST OF SEED.
- This begins the multiplication process

As this cycle continues and we are faithful to sow our harvest, our seed eventually outperforms our own personal ability to make \$.

We were not designed by the Father to work for \$ our entire lives.

We were designed to bring forth seed that brings in a harvest.

Our harvest is a multitude of seed intended to be sown and harvested to bless us and others.

As our harvest increases (due to our faithful sowing) we don't work as hard

- Instead, we **steward** the sowing and reaping process
- There will be those who *work* within our "process" and learn the sowing and reaping pattern
- They will leave as they faithfully do the same and their harvest
- Others will come who need to learn the process

The above is how economy is created. Families live off this, pass on inheritance and (hopefully) multiply the sowing and reaping cycle generationally.

As time progresses and the cycle is honored, societies are created.

From this economy is the ability to employ workers, train up future leaders/employers and bless those in need.

**Because such an economy is a culture in which blessing IS empowerment.

- The wage, the blessing inspires a rise from our current economic state into a better one
- Contentment along with a desire to increase
- A culture in which people are valued enough to be inspired UP

Economy, at its most fundamental level, is the process of sowing and reaping.

- Weak economies: a few sow, all reap
- Strong economies: many sow and all reap

Our job – work performed - is not the only place we sow and reap.

- How we think, believe, speak and behave are all seed sowing
- What we reap is the result of ALL seed we have sown

Whatever we think, feel and believe requires seed sowing to keep it alive

- Hate, offense, hurt, anger all require tremendous investment to maintain
- It requires more investment to hate than it does to love
 - o We were created by Love, for love
- Partisan politics exists because people invest deeper and deeper into their perspective alone rather than the other side's perspective

The Parable of the Sower

- It's not the parable of soils.
- In every parable or bible story, **we are the PERSON who can affect the most good.**
 - o If we take another role, we are under not over and we limit Christ in us
 - o Every story of Jesus is in, see YOURSELF as JESUS
 - “Just as He is in this world, so also are WE”
 - o We are the SOWER in this parable
- The parable is an encouragement to SOW SEED
 - o Abundantly SOW.
 - o 75% of the seed sown will not produce a harvest – SOW ANYWAY!
 - o 25% of the seed sown will produce enough harvest to abundantly provide
 - It would have only taken a **3x harvest** to make up for the “lost” seed
 - Instead, the **minimum harvest is 30x**

An Economy is only as strong as the willingness of each person therein to sow seed.

An Economy is only as strong as the ability of each person to realize the seed they are sowing.

An Economy is only as strong as the QUALITY and QUANTITY of seed sown.

An Economy is only as strong as the ability of each person to see the harvest as MORE SEED.

An Economy is only as strong as each person's ability to sow a significant portion of their harvest.

Decided today:

1. I want to be a contributor / sower / producer of a thriving economy
2. I cannot provide what I do not produce.
3. The economy will be of higher quality and scope because I am in it