

Head On: Money

Tim Wilson

Scripture

Hebrews 13:5-6

Other passages referred to:

1 Timothy 6:10, Matthew 6:24/Luke 16:13, Matthew 19:16-26, Deuteronomy 6:4-6/Luke 10:27, Exodus 20:3-4

Overview

The Head On mini-series concluded with the topic of money. Money and its impact is so prevalent in our culture and is the foundation of our economic system. It dominates news headlines, is so often the main factor in elections, is a measure of size, status and success (and failure) and we all carry a global market with countless money price tags in the palm of our hands. Therefore it's not surprising the Bible has a lot to say about money.

1. Money Love
2. Being Content with what we have

1. Money Love (v.5)

- Emphasis of scripture is on the love of money
- Money isn't neutral, it has spiritual power and has the potential to become an idol
- When we love money and it becomes our prime focus it very often leads to materialism, greed, coveting and obsession
- We can be lovers of money demonstrated by how we pursue money through our work, if we feel we have no money and it becomes our main pursuit and more subtly if we are in a state of comfort in terms of money and it has become our security rather than God

2. Being Content with what we have (v.5-6)

- To be content we need to recognise what we have:
 - 'I will never leave you or forsake you' (v.5)
 - 'The Lord is my Helper' (v.6 quoting Psalm 118:6)
 - God is our Provider
- We need a heart, mind and wallet conversion (Martin Luther) which will lead to true contentment in Him
 - Nothing belongs to us but everything is available to us
 - God's Ownership
 - Gratitude
 - Hold what he has given to us loosely – open to Him taking them away or reducing them
- We can then grow into the being able to use money as he wants us to use it , stewarding money by spending, saving, investing and giving without serving it or

loving it. We can glorify Him, how will it help in developing my love for Him, how is it helping me to love my neighbours: church family and the wider world we have been put in.

Further Sermon Resources on Stewardship and Giving/Generosity

<https://subsplash.com/thecitychurch/sermons/mi/+gte5my2>

<https://subsplash.com/thecitychurch/sermons/mi/+wjzqcsc>

<https://subsplash.com/thecitychurch/sermons/mi/+pq5gwcz>

<https://subsplash.com/thecitychurch/sermons/mi/+4bjx84y>

<https://subsplash.com/thecitychurch/sermons/mi/+8x7v39c>

Questions

The application of the talk was framed around the '**Jonathan Calling**' of:

1. 'How Am I Growing Personally?'
2. 'How Am I Helping Others to Grow?'

Firstly, there is a list of questions for personal reflection which may be appropriate to ask in the small group setting depending on your group but if not please ask your group members to be accountable to others on this. There are also some broader questions afterwards.

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. Did you recognise yourself as a potential lover of money in one of the three broad categories;
 - a. Level of focus on earning and generating money
 - b. Not currently having money but desiring it
 - c. Being comfortable but in reality, our security is in our money
2. How content are you with what God has given you? How often do you express that God in thanksgiving?
3. Do you believe and trust He will provide all your needs?
4. When you reflect on money are your prevalent responses any of the following: fear (of going without), anxiety, insecurity, guilt, embarrassment, 'I deserve this'/entitlement?
5. Does the challenge of accepting your relative wealth apply to you? If so, how are you going to respond to that accepted status?
6. When was the last time you talked to someone about the temptation of loving money, it becoming an increasing priority in your life and the potential of it becoming an idol?
7. Have I not done something God has asked me to do because I did not think I had enough money?

Questions for Broader Group Discussion

8. How do we maintain a focus on the risk posed by money and the love of money when it is so immersed in our culture and our everyday experience?
9. Have the group got any examples and experiences of how they ensure that they live in the reality of 'God is our Provider' and the contentment that brings?
10. How do you think you would respond if your income/wealth was reduced?