

Why The Lord Says So Much About Money and Possessions

1. Spiritual Reasons

- a. How we handle money has a significant impact on the In INTIMACY of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

"If therefore you are not faithful in the use of worldly wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you"
(Luke 16:11)

- b. Money is a primary competitor with Christ for the LORDSHIP of our life.

"No one can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other...You cannot serve God and Money" (Matt 6:24)

2. Practical Reasons

The Lord wanted to give us a blueprint for handling our money. Scripture gives us clear principles for earning, spending, saving, investing, giving, getting out of debt, and teaching our children how to handle money.

- a. The financial practices of most people are in sharp CONTRAST to the principles of Scripture.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lords. For as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." (Isa 55:8-9)

God's Part in our finances

Scripture teaches there are two distinct responsibilities in the handling of money:

The part that God plays and the part we play.

1. OWNERSHIP

God is the owner of everything. *"The earth is the Lord's and all it contains"* (Psalm 24:1)

If we are going to be genuine followers of Christ, we must transfer the ownership of our possessions to the Lord. (Luke 14:33) Jesus tells us to renounce all we have.

- b. The first step in learning CONTENTMENT is recognizing God is the owner of all your possessions.

2. Control

- c. Our heavenly Father is in ultimate CONTROL of everything and every event.

"We adore you as being in control of everything" (1 Chron 29:11)

"I praise the Most High... He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: What have you done?" (Dan 4:34)

It is comforting for the child of God to realize that his heavenly Father orchestrates even seemingly devastating circumstances for ultimate good.

- d. *“And we know that God causes ALL THINGS to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Rom 8:28)*

3. Provision

- e. The Lord promises to PROVIDE for our needs.

“But seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness: and all these things will be added unto you.” (Food and clothing...) (Matt 6:33)

- f. God is both PREDICTABLE and unpredictable. He is absolutely predictable in His faithfulness to provide. What we cannot predict is how The Lord will provide.

- g. The basic reason most fail to recognize God’s parts that we do not know who God really is. We tend to SHRINK Him down to our own human abilities and limitations.

“You are FAMILIAR with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord” (Psalm 139:3-4)