

MONEY BAG: Practicing Kingdom Economics - Kingdom Economics 101

Icebreaker: If you had a million dollars of disposal income, what would you do with it right now?

Aside from the kingdom of God, Jesus had more to say about money than most other topics...Does the topic of money within the church make you nervous or uncomfortable? Why or why not?

Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. (Luke 12:15)

Give to everyone who begs of you, and if anyone takes away your goods don't ask for them again. (Luke 6:30) – When you see a beggar at a stoplight, how do you respond?

- **The thought of money can be overwhelming** – “So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.” (Matt. 6:31-32)
- **The pursuit of money can be addicting** – “Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.” (Prov. 23:4)

Are either of the above two bullets true of you? If so, which one and why?
Kingdom economics 101...

- **Your bag is God's gracious gift** – “Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work – this is a gift from God.” (Eccl. 5:19) – Do you enjoy the fruit of your labors? According to this verse, who initiates wealth and the enjoyment of it? Have you ever considered the truth Ecclesiastes 5:19 and does that alter your philosophy about wealth and the enjoyment of it?
- **Your bag is your entrusted tool** – “The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’” (Matt. 25:20) – In what areas has God entrusted you with your money?
- **Spending decisions are spiritual decisions** – “I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.” (Luke 16:9) – What would your checkbook/spending say about where you thrive spiritually and where you lack spiritually?
- **You're never smarter with your bag than God** – “For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Prov. 2:6) Do you allow for God to play into your financial decisions? If so, how?
- **It's not what's in your bag that “counts,” it's what's in your heart** – “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matt. 6:19a, 20a, 21) – Compare the amount of treasure you are storing up on earth to the treasure you are storing up in heaven? What treasure is bigger at this moment? Are you willing to put more treasure into the heaven account and if so, how might you do that? Pray about this with your group.

No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (Luke 16:13)