

10-08-2023, COTR Texarkana

Title: M-O-N-E-Y...God's Way or My Way, pt-1

Purpose: Provoke people to get and use money the right way by following Biblical principles.

Text: Proverbs 10:22

Topic: Money, Possessions, Trust, Worry, Idols

Series Title: "Your Best Life Now" ...is found by following God's ways!

Series purpose: Provoke people to embrace the path of Biblical truth to have a blessed life now and rewards in eternity.

## **M-O-N-E-Y...God's Way or My Way, pt-1**

### I. Introduction

A. Pic Your Best Life Now God's Way/ World's Way Review Series: "Your Best Life... Now". We're learning how following the Biblical path will lead us to a blessed life now and rewards in eternity. Ps.1, practical issues of everyday life. Pic Eternal, Sex

B. CAMERA Pic \$- God's Way/My way; the world's way The next few weeks we'll talk about everyone agrees on. To live our best life, we need money in our pocket Billfold...but are we getting money by practicing Biblical principles and managing it with Biblical priorities or are we getting it the world's way and spending it all for what we want? Text: [Proverbs 10:22 (ESV) **The blessing of the Lord makes rich**, and he adds no sorrow with it. (*and toil adds nothing to it*)] I want to help you be blessed like this. This isn't a formula or a guarantee we'll all be millionaires. All of us will have seasons of need but we'll be better off financially if we get and manage money God's way rather than doing it our way.

C. Title: M-O-N-E-Y...God's Way or My Way, pt-1

### II. God blesses and provides for people who follow His ways. (How Pr. 10:22 works)

A. Context: Abraham, Isaac, Promised Land, [Genesis 26:1–14 (NLT) A **severe famine** now struck the land...So Isaac moved to Gerar, where...the Philistines, lived. <sup>2</sup> The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "**Do not go down to Egypt, but do as I tell you.** <sup>3</sup> **Live here as a foreigner in this land, and I will be with you and bless you.**

1. Life App #1: Even when circumstances are bad and others are struggling, God can bless and prosper us if we obey Him.

B. [Vs. 6, So Isaac stayed in Gerar. <sup>12</sup> When **Isaac planted his crops** that year, he harvested a **hundred times more** grain than he planted, **for the Lord blessed him.** <sup>13</sup> **He became a very rich man, and his wealth continued to grow.]**

1. Life App #2: Our obedience to God opens the door of His blessing.

Business idea

2. Life App #3: It takes faith to plant in a famine. E.g., Elijah widow 1 Ki 17:8-16

III. Work is the primary way God provides for us. (God's blessing doesn't mean the check is in the mailbox.)

A. Creation, [Genesis 2:5–9 (NLT)...there were no people to **cultivate the soil...**<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground....<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord God planted a **garden in Eden** in the east, and **there he placed the man he had made.**] Adam's job was to tend the garden. He worked for the food he ate.

1. Life App #4: Work is God's primary way we provide for ourselves.

Adam's job provided for his needs but also gave him something to do and provided a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment in his accomplishment. Pic Farming

B. Context: after Adam's sin, [Ge. 3:17–19 (NLT) "Since you...ate from the tree...I commanded you not to eat, the **ground is cursed...** All your life you will **struggle to scratch a living from it.** <sup>18</sup> It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. <sup>19</sup> By the **sweat of your brow** will you have food to eat...]

1. Life App #5: Sometimes work is hard. Don't quit. Do it anyway. [Pr. 12:14 (NLT) ...**hard work brings rewards.** Pr. 13:11 (NLT) Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; **wealth from hard work** grows over time.]

2. CAMERALife App # 6: Lazy people who **refuse to work** will be poor unless they steal, take advantage of others, win at gambling, or depend on handouts. Don't expect the government to take the place of mom and dad. Sadly, many watch TV all day and expect someone else to provide for their needs and miss the blessing of work. [Pr 10:4 (NLT) **Lazy people are soon poor; hard workers get rich.** 2 Thes. 3:10 (NIV) For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "**The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.**"] Able people are expected to work; disabled or elderly need help. I'm grateful America has programs

designed to help people who can't provide for themselves. Sadly, the programs have grown to give handouts for votes for the able bodied.

C. Life App # 7: Become an expert doing work you love to do, and you'll have money. [Pr. 24:27 (ESV) **Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.**] I.e., Before you enjoy the good life, go to college, trade school, OJT and do what it takes to be the best. Pay now, play later; Play now, pay later...but one day you have to pay. John Maxwell.

IV. We can treat our money and possessions as an owner (it's mine) or as a manager (it's Gods) Contrast 2 people, Closed fist/ Open fist

A. [Mark 10:17–31 (NLT)...a man came...to him (*Jesus*)...and asked...**what must I do to inherit eternal life?**"...<sup>19</sup>...you know the commandments: 'You must not murder...commit adultery... steal...testify falsely...*or* cheat anyone...<sup>20</sup>...the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young."'] These commandments are all about how we treat people. Jesus is about to see how he responds to the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment, [Ex. 20:3 (NCV) "**You must not have any other gods except me.**] It prohibits devotion to or honoring anything before the One True God.<sup>2</sup> Jesus will show us his money and possessions were more important than God.

B. [Vs 20... "There is still one thing you haven't done,"... "Go and **sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor,** and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, **follow me.**" <sup>22</sup>...**he went away sad, for he had many possessions.** <sup>23</sup> Jesus...said to his disciples, "How **hard** it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!"] 'Closed fist' What I have is mine. I decide what I do with it. My stuff is more important than God.

1. He was a deeply religious man, but he loved what money could buy more than God. He was willing to trade his possessions which he could only hold on to for a few days, weeks, or years for his eternal soul. Jesus wasn't, and doesn't today, requiring people to be poor to go to heaven. He simply was trying to make a point; we can love our stuff more than we love Jesus. He owned his possessions, and his possessions owned him. [Luke 16:13 (NLT) "No one can serve two masters... **You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.**"]

2. Life App #8: Jesus isn't against us having wealth or possessions; He just wants us to be more devoted to Him than the things of this world. [1 Timothy 6:17 (NCV)... **God richly gives us everything to enjoy.**]

C. Contrast, [Vs 28 Then Peter began to speak up. **“We’ve given up (ESV left) everything to follow you,”**] ‘Open hand’ All I have belongs to you. Nothing I have is more important than You. I depend on you to take care of me.

1. The word “given up”/ “left” is *aphiēme* (ἀφιημε) “to send or bid go away, **yield up.**” Open hand The idea is that of abandoning.<sup>1</sup> He quit his fishing job but still had possessions. [Mt. 8:14 (NLT) When Jesus arrived at **Peter’s house**, Peter’s mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever.] It seems like a better way to look at ‘giving up or leaving everything’ is prioritizing. Peter still ‘owned’ a house, but Jesus was more important than the house.
2. Life App #9: Jesus doesn’t require us to get rid of all our possessions to follow Him; He just wants us to be more committed to Him than our possessions. He wants us to sign the deed to everything we own and manage it for Him. It’s called stewardship. Maybe that’s why the Bible teaches us to tithe, i.e., give the 1<sup>st</sup> 10% of everything we earn to God.
3. [Vs 29 “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up **house** or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or **property, for my sake...<sup>30</sup> will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property**—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have **eternal life.**]
  - a. Life App #10: We’ll live our best life when God blesses our finances because we practice Biblical principles and manage our money with Biblical priorities.

V. Conclusion: CAMERA When Jesus is more important than money and possessions, we can trust Him to take care of us.

A. Context, worry about money, [Matthew 6:30–33 (NLT) <sup>30</sup>...**Why do you have so little faith?** <sup>31</sup> “So **don’t worry** about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we **drink?** What will we **wear?**’ <sup>32</sup> **These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.** <sup>33</sup> **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.**]

Open hand

VI. Response

A. Prayer (1) Lord, I want you to bless me and if I’m doing anything to hinder your blessing help me change. (2) Help me not worry about having enough

money, (3) I want seeking Your Kingdom to be more important than money and possessions. Closed fist/ open hand

B. Souls: There is something more important than money, our eternal soul.

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Wuest, K. S. (1997). [\*Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 206). Eerdmans.

2. Pfeiffer, C. F. (1962). [\*The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: Old Testament\*](#) (Ex 20:3). Moody Press.

VIII. Supplemental Material

A. The series is based on the contrast in Psalm 1 between those who follow God and those who reject His ways and follow the ways of the world or their own desires.

B. Pr. 21:5 (NLT) Good planning and **hard work lead to prosperity**, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.]