



WEEKLY STUDY

Jesus on Money - Week One

What does Jesus say about money? A lot, it turns out. How are his words different from the way we typically talk about money? Jesus didn't teach about money for the sake of teaching about money. He taught about money and possessions because of how they impact (or reveal) the state of our heart for God. How we respond to Jesus' words could have a direct impact on the way others see the Kingdom of God.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 18.18-30 (NIV)

A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁹"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ²⁰You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'"

²¹"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

²²When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²³When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. ²⁴Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶ Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷ Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

²⁸ Peter said to him, “We have left all we had to follow you!”

²⁹ “Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”

- *What must I do?* Most likely a religious leader, what the man was really asking was, *what good works must I do to earn my way to heaven?* Jesus does not disparage the ruler’s obedience to God’s law, he simply tells him that there is one more thing to do. The one thing to do is actually an invitation to let go. Let go of your possessions, sell them, and disperse their value to those in need. And follow him. It seems so simple, but, as with many of us, that one thing (everything we own) has a hold on us in ways we don’t often realize. Do you find it easier to follow rules or to let go of your possessions? Does one leave you feeling more faithful than the other?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. (1 Timothy 6.17-19)**
- *God, continue to form my heart into one that beats purely for you. Thank you for your Law that guides me, and thank you for your grace that calls me to a life of sacrifice. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 18.18-30 (NIV)

- *No one is good but God alone.* Is Jesus saying that he is not the Son of God? No! He recognizes that the ruler does not yet fully know who Jesus was. He might have said, *Don’t pursue me as a good leader or teacher, pursue me as God who alone is good.* In a sense, he is leaving a clue that would surely resonate in the ruler’s heart by the time of Jesus’ resurrection. Have you experienced a moment (or moments) when you suddenly saw Jesus for who he really is? How did that impact the way you live your life?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Among the gods there is none like you, Lord; no deeds can compare with yours.**
⁹ **All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.**
¹⁰ **For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God. (Psalm 86.8-10)**
 - *Jesus, you are the Son of God! I seek you for the image and the Way of holiness. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 18.18-30 (NIV)

- The final commandment listed in Exodus 20 is to not covet (your neighbor's house, wife, servants, possessions). The ruler left it out of his summation. Jesus brings it up because it is most clearly about the heart. *Do you desire what you do not have or what you can have freely with God? Answer this question for yourself. How do you know? What are the indicators one way or the other?*
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- **Prayer Prompt: You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. (Exodus 20.17)**
- *God, I confess that my heart is courted by many wonderful things. Sometimes I let envy or an apparent lack of necessities lead me into despair. All the while you offer me salvation through Jesus. Forgive me as I fix my heart on you. Amen.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 18.18-30 (NIV)

- The removal of ties to worldly things is only the beginning of following Jesus! In Luke 14.33, Jesus said that one must give up everything in order to be a disciple. Here in Luke 18, he goes a step further: give it up and give it away! This sounds extreme. It's about the heart of one who doesn't just put possessions in storage, but completely liquidates it all so that it can be given away. None of this is about the items themselves. Many things that we have in our daily lives bring joy to ourselves and others. Jesus requires that our hearts be more focused on him than on the other things that bring us happiness. Have you ever felt called to a shift in priorities when it comes to what you are giving your heart to?
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- **Prayer Prompt:** “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22.37-39)
 - *God, All I have is yours. You have given me every good thing in my life. Every possession and every relationship, every achievement, and every victory I give to you today. Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 18.18-30 (NIV)

- The rich ruler finds himself filled with sorrow when he hears that he must overhaul his attachment to his wealth. We tend to get our happiness and contentment from the idea of having “enough”. We can all relate to that sense that we could be doing more...we could be doing more for our future...for our family...for our legacy. But there is no clear measure of “enough” that fits into the call of Jesus to *follow me*. Describe moments when you have felt the most contentment. What has “enough” felt like at any given moment in your life? How can following Jesus make that sense carry through the times of abundance and scarcity?
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- **Prayer Prompt:** “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” (John 14.8)
- *God, you are all I need. You are all I really have. Jesus is my all in all. Set my heart and let me live with a perspective of gratitude.*

SATURDAY: LUKE 18.18-30 (NIV)

- It is not hopeless for those of us who have some amount of wealth (especially in comparison to the rest of the world). We can't fit a camel through the eye of a needle. No way. But God can! Why would wealth be seen as a hindrance to entering the Kingdom of God? How might a changed heart towards wealth lead to an experience of the Kingdom of God? The disciples had a moment of commendation here. They recognized that they had given up their lives to follow Jesus. And Jesus affirms the eternal reward that would await them if they continued to follow him. Can you imagine Jesus saying that to you? *Keep following me, give me your heart.*
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- **Prayer Prompt: But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today. (Deuteronomy 8.18)**
 - *God, anything I have and anything I have produced is because of you. Let me give and live for you today. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

In reflecting on this passage (Luke 18.18-30) Pastor Jacob pointed out the common theme: *If you want to grow, you want to know, the one thing you still lack.*

1. As a follower of Jesus, do you resonate with this sense that there is always more room to grow?
2. What is the *one thing* that you are facing right now? What is the growing edge of your discipleship right now?
3. How can your group be praying for you as you tackle this next *one thing* of your growth as a disciple?