

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study for February 25, 2021

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Topic: “The Power of Money in the Realm of the Spirit”

Scripture Reference: Luke 16:11

“If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”

I. Introduction

A. One of the biggest issues people face – and one that people pray to get victory over in their lives – is in the financial realm.

B. If getting your finances into shape is one of your desires, this lesson will be particularly important to you. If you believe that your finances are already in fine shape, perhaps you may still be able to glean a nugget or two of useful information from this study.

C. How you handle your finances is a very spiritual issue.

According to Luke 16:11, your finances – how you manage and respect them – is a test that God uses to assess whether you are ready for higher levels of blessings, prosperity, responsibility, and greater authority.

D. In this verse, Jesus clearly taught that God watches how we manage our money, and that is what helps Him determine if we are ready for promotion to greater blessings.

E. This is precisely what Jesus meant when He said, “If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”

Comment: It is especially important to understand what Jesus is telling us in this verse.

II. Exposition [Part I]

- A. In the Greek, the word “faithful” is the word *pistoi*, which expresses the picture of a person who is known to be **faithful, responsible, conscientious, and trustworthy**.
- B. This is in comparison to a person who is **impetuous** (i.e., doing things quickly without thought), **thoughtless, rash, irresponsible**, and therefore **not trustworthy**.
- C. Therefore, this verse could be taken to mean, “If you are impetuous, thoughtless, rash, irresponsible, and untrustworthy with unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”
- D. Mammon is called unrighteous not because it is inherently evil but because of the unrighteous attitudes the pursuit of money can produce.
- E. If money were inherently unrighteous, then all uses of it would be evil. But that is not Jesus’ view. The Apostle Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:10 that **“the love of money is the root of all evil.”**
- F. The word “unrighteous” comes from the Greek word *adikia*, which in this verse is used to convey the idea of something unspiritual, common, worldly, or something that belongs to the realm of human beings.
- G. **“Mammon”** is the word *mamonas*, a very old Greek word that denotes money or wealth. When these words “unrighteous mammon” are used together as they are in Luke 16:11, it denotes common, worldly money along with all of its buying power in this earthly sphere.
- H. When Jesus referred to **“true riches,”** the word **“true”** is the Greek word *alethinous*, which means **real, bonafide, genuine, indisputable, or authentic**.
- I. Money, which seems so powerful in this earthly realm with all of its buying power, is nothing compared to the power of God.

III. Exposition [Part III]

- A. People spend much of their time thinking about money, how to

acquire it, spend it, save it, invest it, borrow it, keep track of it, and for some, how to give it away.

B. The widespread preoccupation with money that dominates

today's society results in anxiety, covetousness, selfishness, greediness, discontent, idolatry, and pride.

C. The Bible has a great deal to say about money, including how to obtain it, how to regard it, and how to use it.

D. How you manage your money and what you do with it is far more important than perhaps you may have even realized.

E. If God finds you faithful with money, He will know that you can be trusted with real spiritual riches that are unequalled in power.

F. The Bible reveals both right and wrong ways to obtain money.

The most important way to make money is through work. Proverbs 14:23 says – "In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury (i.e., poverty)."

G. Money can be obtained by saving for the future, through proper assessment of one's resources and wise planning (Prov. 27:23-24). Money can also be obtained through gifts (see Phil. 4:16).

H. On the other hand, there are **wrong ways** to get money, including:

1. **Stealing** (Ex. 20:15; Eph. 4:28)
2. **Fraud** (Ps. 37:21; Hos. 12:7; Amos 8:5; Mic. 6:11)
3. Charging **exorbitant interest** on loans (Ex. 22:25; Lev. 25:36-37; Neh. 5:7,10; Ps. 15:5; Prov. 28:8)
4. **Withholding from others what is due them** (James 5:4)
5. **Gambling** – which foolishly trusts in chance rather than in the providence of God.

I. Scripture reveals the right way and the wrong way to regard money.

Point: The right attitude is to acknowledge that God owns everything (Ps. 50:10; Hag. 2:8), and He is the source of people's ability to earn money (Deut. 8:17-18, cf. 1 Tim. 6:17).

A9. The wrong way to regard money is to love it, which leads to:

1. Disastrous consequences (1 Tim. 6:10)
2. Loving money is destructive (1 Tim. 6:9)
3. Loving money leads to a lack of trust in God (Job 31:24-28; Prov. 11:28; 1 Tim. 6:17).
4. Loving money results in ungratefulness and pride (Deut. 8:12-17)
5. Loving money causes people to behave foolishly (Luke 12:16-21)
6. Loving money can cause some people to rob God (Mal. 3:8)
7. Loving money can cause some people to be indifferent to the needs of others (1 John 3:17)

Taken together, a correct interpretative translation of Jesus' words in Luke 16:11 could be rendered:

"If you are impetuous, thoughtless, rash, irresponsible, and untrustworthy with regards to money and all of its buying power in this earthly realm, who will commit to your trust the indisputable true bona fide riches?"

IV. Exposition [Part IV]

- A. By listening to and obeying the Spirit of God, using common sense, exercising self-control, and planning your purchases in advance, you can live a life that is more debt free than the way you are living right now.
- B. It will take determination, but if you really want to become free of debt – and remain free – it is possible to achieve it.

Comment: It is recognized that having a house mortgage is a fact of life for most people and it represents the largest amount of indebtedness.

However, following sound biblical principles, using common sense, and trusting God, will allow you to maintain your mortgage payments without anxiety and unnecessary pressure, until it is paid off.

- c. Your stewardship of money is a big test that God uses to determine if you are ready for that next big promotion.
- d. Since God is looking at how you manage your money, do you think He finds you faithful and therefore ready for the next step up in His good plan for you?

Observation: Most of the world including the Christian Community – longs for more financial freedom and less debt.

- ☒ Especially at this time when so many people have been hit across the world with a financial crisis.
- ☒ The fact is that most of the world is in some sort of financial debt. This means that there are very few people who are financially free.

If you are financially free – give God some Praise –

RIGHT NOW!!

Consider the following Prayer

Father, I'm taking a fresh look at how I handle my finances. It is not Your will for me to be in bondage to anything – including and especially financial debt. I want to be once and for all financially free, more than I've ever been. Through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, help me to exercise more wisdom and restraint in financial matters, so that You can count me trustworthy with the true riches of Your Kingdom.

I pray this in Jesus' name

Amen!

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages below by filling in the blank spaces. All Scriptures have been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

“For we brought _____ into this world, and it is certain we can carry _____ out. “ [1 Timothy 6:7]

“His Lord said unto him, _____, good and _____ servant; thou has been _____ over a few things, I will make thee _____ over _____ things; enter thou into the _____ of thy Lord.”

[Matthew 25:23]

“ _____ none of those things which thou shalt _____; behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have _____ ten days: be thou _____ unto _____, and I will _____ thee a _____ of _____.”

[Revelation 2:10]

“ _____ in the Lord with all thine _____; and lean not unto thine own _____. In all thy ways _____ him, and he shall _____ thy paths.”

[Proverbs 3:5,6]

“ _____ the Lord with thy _____, and with the _____ of all thine _____.”

[Proverbs 3:9]

Questions For You To Consider

1. If you were free of debt, what are the ways you would be able to allot more money to the Gospel and to meet the needs of others?
2. Do you struggle with giving your tithe and offering?
3. Do bills and credit card interest and payments affect whether you give monetarily to the Lord?
4. Are you ready for the Lord to trust you with true riches?

Thank you for participating in this Bible Study session. As always, please feel free to share this lesson with others and my prayer is that you have been blessed. I also pray that you will be a blessing to others.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin