Money Possessions and Eternity:  
*Christian Stewardship*  
June 5, 2011

Lesson 1 – *Scriptures & Stewardship*

How could the Bible’s Author and Editor justify devoting twice as many verses to money (about 2350 of them) than to faith and prayer combined? The sheer enormity of Scripture’s teaching on this subject screams for our attention. The haunting question is - why? Why did he say more about how we are to view and handle money and possessions than about any other single thing? No one asked John about money and possessions in Luke 3. They just asked him what they should do to bear the fruit of spiritual transformation. Yet all his answers relate to money and possessions. What we need on this journey is a road map to help us understand God’s perspective and to teach us to make eternally significant decisions. - *Randy Alcorn*

According to John Piper, money is the currency of Christian Hedonism. If we are really going to immerse ourselves in finding total pleasure in Christ, money will be used to give away, bless others, and exalt the master’s holy name.

In this lesson, we’ll look at some key Scriptures to help us unlock God’s view of our finances and economic goals and shake up some of our traditional views of “Christian finance”.

**Luke 3:7 – 14**  
In this passage, John the Baptist forcefully exhorts a crowd of questioners about how to live – and how to give.

a. Luke 3:11. Based on this verse, to whom do our possessions and wealth belong? How does our possession of wealth imply a responsibility apart from our own enjoyment?

b. Luke 3:12 – 14. What special responsibilities do people have who work with money? What is the responsibility of everyone who is paid to work?

c. Based on Luke 3:7 – 14, what can we conclude about the money and possessions entrusted to us? What are the dangers of using them wrongly?

**Luke 19:1 – 10**  
What principles about the proper use of money can we draw from the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus? *How much did he give away? ½! That blows away 1/10. Depending on how much he had cheated people, he may have created a debt for himself to some with his statement. Why couldn’t Zacchaeus see Jesus? Let’s not stand in the way of others seeing Christ!*

**Matthew 19:16 – 30**  
In this passage, Jesus tells a rich man to take a radical step in regard to his wealth. What can we conclude about wealth and our willingness to depend on Christ? *He gauged the rich young ruler’s true spiritual condition by his (un)willingness to part with his money. Do you find it insightful that this man asked “which ones” of the laws did he have to obey, knowing that he couldn’t obey them all? You either have to obey them ALL or you need a Savior! This man seemed SO CLOSE to conversion! Why didn’t Christ rope him in with the tithe instead of the “everything”? What was at stake here? His question was about eternal life. Do you want eternal life or do you want to keep your stuff? Jim Elliott said “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.” Do we really understand the barrier that*
wealth presents to genuine spiritual birth and growth?! (Perhaps we need missionaries from India or other poor areas to come and witness to Americans.)

Mark 12:41 Does this passage give you insight on whether God cares about what you do with His money? He sat down and deliberately watched the people make their offerings. He was interested enough to make it an object lesson for His disciples.

Acts 19:18 – 20 In this passage, we see a radical response to ill-gained or inappropriate wealth. In what situations might new (or mature) Christians today be prompted to take such steps? The value of what was burned was approx. 50,000 days wages or perhaps six million dollars in today’s economy. Should they have sold them? And led others astray!? They truly valued eternal life properly upon their conversion and that is what Christ desires of us!

Acts 2:42 – 47 This passage records an example of true community in the context of Christian fellowship. What principles can we draw from this passage that will help us discover what God intends our attitudes and actions to be concerning money and possessions?

Acts 4:32 – 35 How should our gratefulness to God for our salvation prompt unusual generosity far beyond the requirements of Old Testament law?

Stewardship

Webster’s dictionary says that a steward is someone employed to manage domestic concerns; a fiscal agent; one who supervises the provision and distribution of funds. We are called to be stewards of God’s estate, agents of our eternal spiritual welfare and the welfare of others. Stewardship is not a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship is the Christian life. What is Stewardship? It is the use of all that God has entrusted to us: life, time, talents, money, possessions, family, and his grace.

Luke 16:1 – 13 What do you think the passage means and what message do you get form it for your life?

Page 142 of Money, Possessions, and Eternity has three possible suggestions for interpretations. What do you think the passage means? And what message do you get from it for your life?

It appears the master commends the manager for using his assets to influence those in his life during his service to the master and after when he is to be welcomed into (eternal) dwellings.

Matthew 25:14 – 30 What do you learn from the Master’s words that will shape your future stewardship? Which of His words stick out to you in verses 23 and 26 – 30?

Faithfulness now seems to indicate we’ll be deemed faithful to manage more in the life to come. Faithfulness in our stewardship will grant us entrance into our Master’s HAPPINESS!

2 Corinthians 5:10 We will all be accountable to Christ our master for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. Are you ready for the Master’s return?