

MAKING JESUS THE LORD OF MY LIFE--LESSON 5A

MAKING JESUS LORD OF MY FINANCES

Introduction: To begin this lesson, read Matthew 6:19-34; Luke 12:13-21. The story is told of a person who left his wallet in his pocket when he was baptized, because he wanted his money as well as himself to belong to the Lord. If we accept Jesus as Lord of our lives, he has the right not only to receive our financial support for his work, but to tell us how to use what we keep for ourselves. Jesus teaches much about our attitude toward money and our management of it. In no other area is our Christianity more tested than here.

1. Why study finances?

- Who is the real owner of everything? Psalm 24:1; 1 Chronicles 29:11 _____
- Besides giving our bodies and our abilities as a sacrifice to God, in what else should we serve him? Proverbs 3:9 _____
- At the judgment, we will answer to God about what? Luke 19:11-27 _____
- How will our faithfulness or unfaithfulness in handling money affect us in the life to come? Luke 16:10-12; 19:15-17 _____

2. The Christian attitude about money

- The devil likes to blind people to reality (2 Corinthians 4:4). He wants us to think we are not really living until we can buy all the things we want. In contrast, what does Jesus say? Luke 12:15 _____
- How many kinds of evil are people willing to do because they love money? 1 Timothy 6:10 _____
- Love of money (greed) is a form of what sin? Colossians 3:5 _____
- What basic decision must a person make about money if he is to follow the Lord? Matthew 6:24, 31-33: compare Matthew 19:16-26 _____
- Why is this decision so important? Matthew 6:21 _____

- What will over-concern about money and possessions do to our service to God? Luke 8:5-15 (especially verse 14) _____
 - If we have _____ and _____, we are to be content. 1 Timothy 6:8.
 - Can a person *decide* to be content? Hebrews 13:5 _____
 - Are happiness and contentment dependent on how much we have, or are they a result of inward attitudes about life? Philippians 4:11-13 _____
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3. **Getting and using money**

- How does God feel about laziness? Colossians 3:23; Proverbs 20:13; 6:9-11

- On the other hand, what does the Lord say about worry over finances? Matthew 6:31-33 _____
- If, after we have done all we can, we worry over finances and other problems, are we trusting God? _____
- How does God feel about people getting money dishonestly? Micah 6:10, 11; Proverbs 20:23; 21:6 _____
- Now that we follow Christ, how should we feel about such dishonesties as cheating on the reporting of income and deductions, putting personal items on company expense accounts, misinformation on insurance claims, using company supplies and phones for personal purposes, changing the odometer reading on a car before sale, “calling in sick” when wanting off for another reason, ignoring parking tickets, knowingly writing hot checks, skipping scheduled payments, or moving away from an address without paying back rent and other bills owed? Psalm 119:104

- What shows that Zacchaeus, who had been dishonest, really repented when he started following the Lord? Luke 19:8 _____