

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

If money could talk to us, it would say, "I'm a much better servant than master."

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:24, 33, Mark 8:34-37

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. The following quote from Andy Stanley brings Jesus' words into focus when he said, "When you make giving a priority, something happens inside of you. Especially when it's financially challenging to do so. It's like you loosen your grip on a value system whose motto says, 'Money is the key to life and happiness and safety.'" – Andy Stanley
2. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, the apostle Paul said, "God loves a cheerful giver." While encouraging the believers in Corinth to give generously, Paul didn't want them to give beyond their means, "reluctantly or under compulsion." Most importantly, he wanted them to rely on their inner convictions. This passage is a reminder that God is more concerned about the motives of our hearts than our actions.
3. Some of our stress around money can come from a real crisis – whether that's a long stretch of unemployment or underemployment, a costly medical procedure, predatory lending, or a scam. Those things are real and really do affect our relationship with money. Not all money stress is because we have made poor choices. However, when our hearts are obsessed with money, we are mastered by it, and that is always destructive.
4. When we seek God first and prioritize giving instead of tightening our grip on our resources, money starts to take its rightful place as a servant instead of master. "Seek-ye-first" living can change your whole relationship with money.
5. God and the Church want generosity for you, not from you. The teaching on money isn't a trick for the church to raise money; rather, it's a vital discipleship reality that is one of the most discussed subjects in the New Testament. We live in the wealthiest nation in the history of the world, and if we are not thoughtful and intentional about how we relate to money, we risk making money our master and not Jesus. This is one of the most significant discipleship issues facing the church in the US today.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND MATERIALS

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism/
4. Who have you been able to BLESS?
5. Budgeting Tools: www.mint.com and www.youneedabudget.com
6. "The worship of the Golden Calf of old has returned in a new and ruthless guise in the idolatry of money and the dictatorship of an impersonal economy lacking a truly human purpose" – Pope Francis