

CARE PROVIDER

PUTTING MONEY IN ITS PLACE

Money is one of the greatest pulls on our hearts.

Ecclesiastes 10:19

A feast is made for laughter,
wine makes life merry,
and money is the answer for everything.

Jesus believed that money was in direct competition to our devotion to God.

Luke 16:13 [Jesus said,] “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

The love of money is a form of idolatry .

Colossians 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:
...greed, which is idolatry.

If money grabs your heart, it can threaten your faith.

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

The parable of the sower:

Mark 4:14-20 [Jesus said,] ...Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;
¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things
come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful...

If we do not have something bigger than money, money will rule us.

Luke 16:13 [Jesus said,] “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Unless we believe that God will care for us, we will be tempted to choose money over God.

Three questions we must address to put money in its place:

What about the things I need?

Genesis 22:13-14 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide [Jehovah Jireh]. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

Answer to believe:

God is my protection,
money is His provision.

Hebrews 13:5-6 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

What about what others think of me?

Answer to believe:

God determines who I am,
money can be an expression of that identity.

1 John 3:1a See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

James 1:9-11 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

What about enjoying my life?

CONTENTMENT: What do I need to be happy in life?
Whatever God has given me.

Answer to believe:

God determines how happy I am,
money determines what I experience it through.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

1 Timothy 6:17 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.

The secret of genuine happiness

...is letting go.

Mark 10:21 Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

“No man can serve two masters. He will either hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

—Jesus, Matthew 6:24

God, I know there is nothing on this earth that I should trust to care for me, or give me a sense of who I am, or bring real happiness and joy into my life. But I acknowledge I am often tempted to believe that money can provide those things for me.

On this day I proclaim that I trust You and not money to protect and provide for me. You are my security. You have warned me that I cannot love both You and money; God, I choose You, my heart is given to You who died for me. I want to live my life and end my life serving You and not money.

Thank You that You are all I need for what is in my past, my present and my future. In that sense You spoke of in Luke 16, from this day forward You are my Master, my Protector, my Provider; by Your grace my money will be Your servant through me.

Name

Date

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:31-32