

Jesus Viewed Money Through a God-Centered Lens

March 17, 2019

THE
DISCIPLE
MAKER

Open: What did you learn about money from your parents?

Read: Luke 12:13-34

Discuss:

1. In these verses, Jesus has much to say about how to view and treat our possessions. From verses 15, 22-23 and 31, how would you summarize Jesus' teaching about life and material goods? How do Jesus' teachings compare or contrast with what our culture teaches?
2. In the parable of verses 15-21, how would you characterize the rich man? What is Jesus' main point in this parable? What are some examples of what it could look like to be "rich toward God," as Jesus calls us to be in verse 21?
3. In light of the surrounding context, what cause of anxiety is Jesus addressing in verse 22? Based on what Jesus says in these verses, what are we saying about God when we worry? In verses 23-30, what truths does Jesus highlight to help someone overcome this anxiety?
4. What does it mean to "seek his kingdom" (v. 31)? How do you understand the practical implications of seeking God's kingdom first and not seeking after what you are to eat and are to drink" (vv. 29-30)?
5. Jesus promises that if you "seek his kingdom" all the things you need "will be added to you" (v. 31). How have you experienced this in your life? How does this fit with the biblical ideal of working to provide for ourselves? (*Proverbs 6:6-11; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12.*)
6. In verse 33, Jesus says one implication of embracing a God-centered view of money and possessions is that we should "give to the needy." How do we decide when and how to do this? What teachings of Jesus or his apostles support your answer to the previous question?
7. Jesus says that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (v 34). What are some good financial questions to ask to determine where our treasure is? What are some steps we can take to ensure that our hearts are where they ought to be?

Apply: What's one way you plan to apply Jesus' teaching on wealth and possessions this week?

Pray: Pray we will be people who seek God's kingdom first and who are generous with our wealth.

Luke 12:13-34.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" ²⁰But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

²²And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³²"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (ESV)