



LifeGroup Study
2023-11-26
YOU ARE WHAT YOU LOVE
The Love of Money
Participant Notes

OVERVIEW:

Welcome back to our series, You Are What You Love. Today's study is called – The Love of Money. Money can have a powerful draw on our heart. How we think about money shapes our hearts and minds. The love of money can quickly lead us away from the love of God's kingdom. This is why Jesus taught about money more than faith and prayer combined. Eleven out of the 40 parables Jesus taught are entirely or in part focused on money. For example, Jesus taught that no one can serve two masters. We cannot serve God and Money. Rather than allowing our hearts to be pulled toward the love of money, Jesus gives us practices like generosity and giving to grow our love for him. When we are set free from the love of money, we are free to love God with the material goods he has entrusted to us.

ICEBREAKER: If I Had a Million Dollars

There is a song called, If I Had a Million Dollars. The lyrics of the song are about someone who is in love and expresses what they would do for the other person "if I had a million dollars". What about you? What do you think you would do over the next year if you suddenly had a million bucks? 😊 **Share your story with the group!**

STUDY:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”

Matthew 6:19-21 NIV

THE LOVE OF MONEY

Money can have a powerful shaping influence in our lives. Money can shape our hearts in ways that focus on living for money and serving money.

1. "Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless." Ecclesiastes 5:10 NIV. **What does this tell us about the shaping power money can have on our heart?**
2. "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'" Hebrews 13:5-6 NIV
 - One of the ways money can shape our hearts is by making us discontent with what we have. **Why is discontentment such a powerful influence on our hearts?**
 - **How can we keep our life free from the love of money?**

CHOOSING CONTENTMENT OVER MONEY

Key to being free from the love of money is to choose the contentment Jesus offers.

READ: 1 Timothy 6:6-10

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 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.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 NIV

3. In verse 6 we read, “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” **What does this mean? What might it look like for us to practice this?**
4. READ vs. 7-8 again. **What do these verses teach us about the temporary reality of “stuff”?**
5. READ vs. 9 again. In this verse Paul warns us about the “trap” of wanting to become rich. **Why is this desire a trap?**
6. In verse 10 Paul says, “For the love of money is the root of all evil.” **What does Paul mean by this?**

BECOMING RICH IN CHRIST

READ 1 Timothy 6:17-19

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. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

7. READ vs. 17 again. **How can we know if we’re putting our hope in wealth or in God?**
8. READ vs. 18 again - “Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” This is how Paul tells us we can be rich in Christ. **What helps you cultivate these habits?**

We live generously toward others when we are grounded in God’s grace toward us.
Brad Hewitt, James Moline [Your New Money Mindset](#)

9. Read vs. 19 again. Paul says that as we practice the habits of good deeds and generosity we “lay up treasure ... as a firm foundation for the coming age.” **What does this mean?**
10. What next step do you sense God calling you to take when it comes to your money? Here are some examples:

Start a budget – track my spending in order to know where my money is going.

Set a giving goal – determine an amount I would like to give to others over the next 12 months.

Pay down debt – calculate what I owe and plan how to pay it off as soon as possible.

Read a book about biblical stewardship – to understand more of how God is leading me in this area.

Book recommends:

Your New Money Mindset – Brad Hewitt and James Moline

Your Money Counts – Howard Dayton

The Total Money Makeover – Dave Ramsey

Online Resources:

Money Map – <https://www.crown.org/money-map-download/>

Budgeting sheets and more <https://compass1.org/tools-for-your-journey/>

Financial training and tools <https://www.ramseysolutions.com/>

PRAYER:

Spend some time thanking God for what he has given you in Jesus. Ask him to guide you to be rich in good deeds and generous toward others.