

What matters when it comes to money?

Three encounters, three hearts.

Encounter with the rich young ruler -Luke 18:18-30

What matters is an undivided heart.

Encounter with Zacchaeus -Luke 19:1-10

What matters is a restored heart.

Encounter with the widow -Luke 21:1-4

What matters is your whole heart.

NEXT STEPS

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation. Join with a life group and continue to grow by using these study questions this week.

MY STORY

Do you think God really “needs” our money? Why or Why not?

What is the point of giving? What do you think He really wants from us through our tithe?

Why do you think people are afraid to give?

Share your giving journey: What are some of the blessings you have experienced?

DIGGING DEEPER

How and for what purpose God uses money? Money is neither good nor bad: it is merely a medium of exchange. It is the misuse and abuses of money that cause the problems. Because God is so good, He uses money for our benefit in several different ways.

God uses money to strengthen our trust in Him. Read Matthew 6:32-33. It is often through money that God can clearly and objectively show us that He is in total control, if we will trust Him. How can you put God first?

God uses money to develop our trustworthiness. This principle is important because our lives generally revolve around making, spending, saving, and using money. If He can trust us with money, then He can trust us with greater responsibilities and His true riches. Read Luke 16:11. What builds your trust in God?

God uses money to prove His love. Scripture tells us that God assumes the responsibility of providing the basic necessities for everyone who trusts in Him. He many times uses money to meet those necessities of life. Read Matthew 7:11. How has God given good gifts to you?

God uses money to demonstrate His faithfulness. Our security is in God, not our bank accounts. Read Malachi 3:10, discovering His faithfulness though financial needs encourages reliance on Him. How can you test him in this matter?

God uses money to unite Christians in blessings. God will use the abundance of one Christian to supply the needs of another. Surplus money in our lives has been given by God for the purpose of helping those who are in need. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19, How can I be rich in good works and generosity?

God uses money to clarify spiritual maturity. Many temptations clamor for Christians' attention. A great deal can be learned about our personal character and spiritual maturity by noticing how we handle money and determine financial priorities. Read Matthew 6:24, What principle is given to help in setting priorities with our money?

On a scale of 1-10 (1=stingy and 10=generous) what does your current level of giving reveal about how your heart perceives God? What wrong beliefs or attitudes need to be changed? What truth about God do you need to embrace?

TAKING IT HOME

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Deuteronomy 26:12 and Malachi 3:10-11. Pray and thank God for the opportunities to give back to Him.

Day 2: Read Genesis 1:27. Ask God for opportunities to give to others in need. Ask God to help you to become the giver He has called you to be.

Day 3: Read Psalm 24:1. Thank God for all He has given you. Commit to being a better manager of all He has given you in terms of family, health, finances and other blessings.

Day 4: Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. Pray and ask God to give you the heart of a cheerful giver. Commit to God that your giving will be an act of worship. Praise Him during your time of prayer.

Day 5: Read Malachi 3:8. Pray for God's strength, protection and wisdom in battling the attacks of the enemy on you personally and those around you.

PRAYER REQUESTS