Money and the Attitude of Your Heart

It can sometimes feel tricky to know what God wants us to do with money. On the one hand, Jesus told the rich young ruler to give all of his money away (Mark 10:17-27). On the other hand, he got upset with the religious leaders when the poor widow gave her last coins to the temple (Mark 12:41-44). How exactly is Jesus expecting his followers to handle their money? Should we really give it away if we struggle to provide for our families? Join us as we examine these stories and additional Scripture references that teach us God's concern for our hearts in matters of money. Whether we have a little or a lot, together we'll discover how to maintain a balanced attitude toward our money and possessions— having appropriate concern for it in this life without letting it become a master of our lives, the source of our identity, or a snare for our salvation.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Think about the commercials and ads you've seen or heard lately. How would you describe the kind of lifestyle they encourage you to pursue?
- Which New Testament text comes to your mind first when you think about money? Why?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: Money and the Attitude of Your Heart

READ Mark 10:17-27, Matthew 6:19-24, 1 John 2:15-17

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee gave a brief overview of the attitudes different Christians have had toward money and possessions, from the asceticism of the desert monasteries to benefactors who used their wealth to support the church. Has anyone inspired you by the way they have lived in relation to their poverty or wealth? What has their example taught you about God, faith, and discipleship?
- In segment 2, Scott explains the meaning of the phrase "evil eye" and why, in the middle of his teaching about money, Jesus talks about eyes in Matthew 6:22-23. When have you had the "evil eye" and lacked generosity or struggled with jealousy, covetousness, or greed? How did it affect you? How would you rather live?
- How do you keep the "balance" that Scott and Darrell described in segments two and three? Are there ways that you have learned to appreciate what you have while also being careful not to give undue love, attention, or value to your possessions?
- Describe the difference between how the world loves things and people and how God loves them. In your own circumstances, do you follow the pattern of God's love or that of the world? What would you like to change?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

Mark 12:41-44, Matthew 20:1-16, James 2:1-13, Ecclesiastes 3:22, Proverbs 3:5-6

CONCLUSION

Pray the words of the hymn <u>Be Thou My Vision</u>. After each verse, describe how it makes you want to live in relation to your work, finances, and possessions. Write out verse three and take it with you to your workplace as a reminder of how to rightly order your priorities as you go about your tasks.

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