

JESUS ON MONEY: PART 1

Pastor Matt Garvin

Mark 12:41-44 NIV

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

The way God does his sums is less about what you _____ and more about what you _____.

A god is that to which we look for all good and in which we find refuge in every time of need. To have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe him with our whole heart. That to which your heart clings and entrusts itself is, I say, really your God.

~ Martin Luther

There are three kinds of conversion.

First is conversion of the _____.

Second is conversion of the _____.

Third is conversion of the _____.

~ Martin Luther

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.

Matthew 6:24 NIV

**What is the basis on which
you make your financial decisions??**

Jesus never intended to be one voice among many counseling us on how to lead our lives and use our money. He always intends to be the voice that guides whatever decisions we make in our lives and with our money.

~ David Platt - Radical: Taking back your Faith from the American Dream

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23-24 NIV

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- Share your journey with living your faith in the way you manage your money. What have you learned along the way?
- Read Mark 12:41-44. Jesus is indicating that God sees not primarily what we give but what we withhold. Can you see things that you are withholding from God?
- Martin Luther said "There are three kinds of conversion. First is conversion of the head. Second is conversion of the heart. Third is conversion of the wallet." Do you think he is right? How has this worked in your life?
- Researcher George Barna said "American Christianity has largely failed since the middle of the twentieth century because Jesus's modern-day disciples do not act like Jesus." How do you see this worked out in how we relate to money?
- The Parable of the rich fool talks about someone who stored up for themselves enough so they could live a relaxed life. In what ways might this be a temptation for you?
- Martin Luther claims "that to which your heart clings and entrusts itself is, I say, really your God." Explore together what it might mean not to trust money but to trust God.
- Do you live from a budget? How does the way you spend your money reflect your values as a follower of Jesus?
- How does our giving demonstrate a counter cultural trust in God? How might we arrange things so that we can give beyond a tithe of our money to God?