

KEY VERSES

Deuteronomy 8:18a NIV - *But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...*

1 Timothy 6:10 NIV - *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.*

MONEY MATTERS

NOTES

1. Money matters to God.

- Two-thirds of the parables told by Christ spoke directly about money and/or one's possessions.
- **Money matters to God because it reveals our _____ and the tendencies of our _____.**
- **Money matters to God because God wants to _____ our hearts.**

Luke 16:13 (NKJV) - *No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

Matthew 6:21 ESV - *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

2. Money matters to Satan.

1 Timothy 6:10 NIV - *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.*

- Money is not evil and having money is not wrong. Loving and loving the pursuit of money can open the door to all kinds of evil.
- **One particular evil of the love of money mentioned by Paul in verse 10 is a _____ from the Christian faith.**

3. Money must matter to you.

- Money must matter to you because it has the potential to bring you some of your greatest joys as a believer or it can pierce your heart with many sorrows.
- **Money must matter to you because God wants to _____ His people so they can be a _____.**
- Two important realities to bring us into balance with our money:
 - Our money is a _____ for our families
 - Our money is a _____ for God's Kingdom.

THE PRINCIPLE OF "THE FIRST"

- **The offering of the _____.**

Exodus 13:2 ESV - *Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.*

- **The first fruits of the _____.**

Exodus 23:19 ESV - *The best of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God.*

Proverbs 3:9, 10 NIV - *Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; v.10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

- The first conquered city of Jericho was the first-fruits of the Promised Land.

Joshua 6:19 ESV - *But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.*

- **The early church gave a percentage of the first fruits of their _____.**

1 Corinthians 16:2 NIV - *On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.*

- Jesus taught us to seek God's kingdom _____.

Matthew 6:33 ESV - "... seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

- Jesus never told anyone that the answer to all their problems was more money. In fact, Jesus said what we really need to do is give it away (in proper balance), take up our cross and follow Him.

If handling one's money was so important to Jesus when he trained his disciples for their ministry calling, it must be important to us also if we are going to be true disciples of Christ.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Is money management a strong area for you or a growth area?
2. Discuss this statement: "Money matters to God because it reveals our heart and the tendencies of our affections." What do you think your money management style, spending, etc. reflects about your heart and affections?
3. The principle of giving the first to God is taught throughout the Bible. Do you practice the principle of tithing and if so, why or why not?
4. As a group, take time to share successes and failures in your life related to finances. How have you stayed in alignment with God's will for your finances, how have you struggled, how have you made changes to be obedient with your finances, etc.