

IT'S COMPLICATED Pt 1

“How We See Money”

THE CONCERN

This is the concern of Jesus for His followers is a matter of allegiance.

Matthew 6:24 NIV

“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.

(How do we relate to our money within the context of our relationship with God?)

IT'S COMPLICATED

I want to invite you to consider what you think about money and how our relationship with Jesus and God's promised redemption shapes our view of money and our relationship with it.

IT'S NOT COMPLICATED

All I want is to earn *enough* money to *easily* provide food, shelter, and other necessities.

Luke 18:24-25 NIV

“How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! 25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV

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.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 NIV

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.

Matthew 26:6-13 NIV

6 While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, 7 a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. 8 When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. 9 “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

10 Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a **beautiful** (kalón) thing to me.

FINANCIAL CONGRUENCE

What we know for sure from this is that the amount of money did not seem to concern Jesus.

The goal isn't to minimize every dollar that might bring joy or beauty or even risk... in order to maximize those dollars to eliminate suffering or poverty.

“The Christian life is the lifelong practice of attending to the details of congruence...”
-Eugene Peterson

Financial Congruence allows us experience the freedom to steward our money to contribute to and create the kinds of things that honor God, reflect His image, and demonstrate His love.

“Generative thinking is fueled by generosity because it so often must work against a mindset that has survival and utility in the foreground. In a culture dominated by this mindset, generosity has an unexpectedness that can set the context for the renewal of our hearts.

An encounter with generosity can remind us that life always overflows our attempts to reduce it to a commodity or a transaction—because it is a gift. Life and beauty are gratuitous in the best senses of that word.” (Makoto Fujimura)

MONEY DEFINED

Money is a TRUSTED EXCHANGE based on an AGREED-UPON VALUE.

How do you see money?

- Does it awaken a drive or a resentment?
- Does it bring a sense of stress and worry?
- Does it come with a sense of security or superiority?

STARTING POINT

- Learn to Discern
- Learn to Trust