



IT'S COMPLICATED (Part 1) - "How We See Money"

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."

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 6:9-10 NIV

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. 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.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV

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. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 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.

Matthew 26:6-13 NIV

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, 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. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

Key Points

- We all have a personal relationship with money—one that is often complicated!
- How we relate to money influences our thoughts, our decisions, and even our well-being.
- Money is intensely personal. It's not just currency; it is a mirror reflecting our dreams, fears, and values.
- While money may cause a lot of problems, money itself isn't the problem—money having mastery of us is!
- Financial freedom isn't a destination we can achieve if we follow the right principles, but a way of life where we can trust God with everything at any moment.
- Financial congruence allows us to 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.

READ

Open your time together by reading the Scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:

- **Read Matthew 6:24. What do you think Jesus meant by "two masters"? How does this imagery apply to our complicated relationship with money?**
- **Read Luke 18:24-25, 1 Timothy 6:9-10, and 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How can wealth be used as a tool for good and as a means to store up treasures in heaven? Who gets to determine who is "rich"?**
- **Read Matthew 26:6-13. What does Jesus' response teach us about priorities and the value of acts of worship and love over material wealth? How can we apply this principle in our own lives?**

REFLECT

- **Complete the following sentence: Money is _____. What makes you view money in this way?**
- **What does it mean that financial freedom isn't a destination, but a way of life? What do you think "financial congruence" means, and how might it relate to your own financial situation?**

RESPOND

- **If money were a person, what would your relationship with them look like? Would it be a strained, complicated bond or a healthy, thriving connection?**
- **What does your relationship with money reveal about your values, priorities, and fears?**
- **What are some specific actions you can take to gain a better understanding of your relationship with money and work towards financial congruence?**

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests collectively or by breaking into prayer partners.