

## Money Matters 1 Ownership

### Introduction - Jesus Words Matter

"Why are you so polite with me, always saying 'Yes, sir,' and 'That's right, sir,' but never doing a thing I tell you? These words I speak to you are not mere additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundation words, words to build a life on. **Luke 6:46-47 MSG**

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? **Luke 6:46**  
- So what did Jesus say

Jesus spoke more about money, wealth and possessions than he did on faith or prayer and more than heaven and hell combined?

- Wow that's a lot of focus on one subject
- Why? - Because he was dealing with the issue of ownership/Lordship and teaching us stewardship
- He also knows that if this one issue gets dealt with in a person's life, it's a sign of their heart being transformed e.g. Zacchaeus meets Jesus and his response is I will give half my wealth away to the poor and pay back 4 times what I have taken, stolen from anyone

Money matters because it is a reflection of our priorities, values and commitments. Our cheques stubs', bank and credit card statements, reveal more about our hearts than anything else. **Steve Uppal**

Jesus Christ said more about money than about any other single thing because, when it comes to a man's real nature, money is of first importance. Money is an exact index to a man's true character. All through Scripture there is an intimate correlation between the development of a man's character and how he handles his money.

**Richard Halverson, chaplain of the U.S. Senate**

<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **Matthew 6:21**

What your money goes after is a signal of what your heart goes after. And Jesus cares more than anything about what your heart goes after.

### 1. Ownership is the Lord's

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **Genesis 1.1**

David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. [11] Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. [12] Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. [13] Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. **1 Chronicles 29:10-13**

He watches and sees all things

The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them. **Psalm 11:4**

From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth— he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. **Psalm 33:13-15**

- He is creator
- He is owner
- He is Lord Master

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; [2] for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. **Psalm 24:1-2**

Everything under heaven belongs to me. **Job 41:11**

## **2. Stewardship has been given to us**

**Definition of stewardship** - A steward manages assets for the owner's benefit. The steward carries no sense of entitlement to the assets he manages. It's his job to find out what the owner wants done with his assets, then carry out his will.

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. [15] To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. [16] The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. [17] So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. [18] But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. [20] The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ [21] “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’ [22] “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ [23] “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’ [24] “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. [25] So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ [26] “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27] Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. [28] “ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. [29] For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. [30] And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**Matthew 25:14-30**

- We are all given things to manage on behalf of the owner
- We are expected to be faithful managers

God is the owner of all things, and we are simply His stewards. Whenever we think like owners, it's a red flag. We should be thinking like stewards, investment managers, always looking for the best place to invest the Owners money. At the end of our term of service, we'll undergo a job performance evaluation: "For we will all stand before God's judgment seat... So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." **Randy Alcorn**

- We are stewards of time, our children, our money, in fact none of it is really ours it is all his and we will have to give an account of it one day
- So the question should really be 'Lord what do you want me to do with your money'
- We have a temporary life on earth
- We are given a limited amount of time
- We are given gifts and skills
- We are given resources to manage
- There is a problem when we think our money belongs to us
- The problem is when we start behaving like owners instead of stewards

#### He Made us stewards over the earth

You put us in charge of your handcrafted world, repeated to us your Genesis-charge, Made us lords of sheep and cattle, even animals out in the wild, Birds flying and fish swimming, whales singing in the ocean deeps. **Psalm 8:6-8 MSG**

#### Steward your own Body

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies. **1 Corinthians 6.19,20**

My times are in your hands; ..... **Psalm 31:15**

- If we are stewards then should we be asking the Owner 'What would you like me to do with your money?'
- Where would you like me to give your money?'
- How would you like me to share your money and with whom?'
- How much of your money Lord should I spend on myself?'

Story of a Fed EX Guy: He is supposed to be delivering things as we entrust them to him. What of he keeps everything? 'Well you gave it to me.'

There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales [35] and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. [36] Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), [37] sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet. **Acts 4:34-37**

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. **1 Corinthians 4:2**

### **3. Accountability will be required**

It is written: " 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.' " <sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

#### **Romans 14:11-12**

- Every pound and every purchase
- Every relationship
- Every day, every hour and every minute
- Story of a delivery man

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. **Psalm 90:12**

So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. **2 Corinthians 5.9-10**

#### **Conclusion**

- God is Owner of All Things
- God has made us stewards/managers
- We will give an account of all that was entrusted to us

**Question** = Do you behave like an owner or like a manager?

How can you begin behaving like a manager instead of an owner?

- Perhaps think of three things you can do to remind yourself your a manager

**Question:** What would your life look like if you lived like a steward?