

INVESTING FOR THE GOOD LIFE – Geldart (1 Tim 6:17-19) 2023-01-22

1. MONEY INTRO

2. Last 2 wks: Discipleship in a DIGITAL AGE.

- a. How should we to think about and use technology in the midst of our digital age?
- b. Use of tech and screens in our dship to Jesus
- c. Training to become more like Christ were he I, and doing what he'd do in my place.

3. Dship in a Consumer culture

- a. A couple weeks to focus in on some areas that have high touch with our process of being discipled into becoming like Jesus.
- b. Given that we live in a historically unprecedentedly wealthy country.
 - i. And that the general message is “use your money to give you pleasure and safety”
 - ii. Get as much as you can, as fast as you can, and spend as much as you can.
- c. How would Jesus interact with your money if he was you?

4. Our Environment

- a. **Story about Sam** (and Ben) with asking how much money we have and make
 - i. As with many things, Sam eventually wore me down with his incessant asking. ;)
 - ii. Parenting judgement call.
 - iii. But included me telling him that in our culture it's not polite to ask or tell people how much you have or make. So don't tell your friends in some sort of juvenile one-upsmanship (or perhaps, downmanship)
- b. **Our culture: cash is king. But you also don't talk about it.**
 - i. Be polite.
 - ii. A kind of don't ask don't tell.

- iii. The big three charged & socially taboo subjects ... politics, religion, and money.

c. Why is that?

- i. Why is money such a big, orienting, and yet private thing in our culture?
 - ii. Perhaps it's a sensitivity to shame.
 - 1. Shame that I don't have as much as I should
 - 2. Or shame that I have more than I should
 - 3. Or shame that I spend too much or am not wise with my money.
 - 4. Maybe you're in debt fairly deep and don't want anyone to know.

5. WHAT ARE WE BRINGING IN

6. First question: What are you feeling right now?

- a. I just found out we're going to be peaching on money for 2 weeks!
- b. First identify the feeling (s)
- c. Then identify some of the thoughts connected to it.

7. Q2: What are you thinking right now?

- a. Maybe connected to messages you've received about money from your family, previous church experiences, culture

8. Helps us identify what we're bringing in to this time today. We all do!

- a. Maybe you're:
 - b. Uncomfortable – we don't talk about this topic very much.
 - c. Defensive? Threatened
 - i. I knew it, another church just trying to get my money
 - d. Suspicious?
 - i. Pastors talk about this so they can get a bigger paycheck. Build their own business.
 - e. Anxious / Fear/ Dread
 - i. Oh no, I don't want to have to think about this, because I know I'd probably have to make some changes.

f. Shame?

- i. If anyone knew what my finances were like (bad or good), they'd judge me
- ii. God too!

g. Or is it boredom/apathy?

h. Or maybe it's genuine interest or excitement

9. What are you bringing in today as we begin talking about money in the life of a Christian?

10. Take a moment to be honest with God about it, and ask for his help.

a. Pray something like this: I'm feeling _____ . And I'm thinking

i. God, please help me to hear your words and your heart this morning about money

b. Pray for me that God would speak through me.

11. Pause here: PRAY

(10min)

1. Discipleship: The call for the Christfollower to

a. The practice of growing in your Christlikeness.

b. Generally, means learning from and becoming like Jesus.

c. And doing what he'd do were he you.

d. 1 Tim 4:7-8

i. ^{7b}... **train yourself to be godly.**

⁸ For physical training is of some value,

but godliness has value for all things,

holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

ii. Your training NOW carries over into the resurrected life that's coming.

iii. You're the same you.

iv. And your training now, your becoming now, has continuity with who you'll be.

2. Few more potent discipleship tools than money.

- a. **John Wesley** famously said: the last thing to be converted (to Christ) is a man's purse (wallet....Venmo)
- b. Looking at how we think about and use money **Forces you to come face** to face with the way of the world vs the way of God
 - i. The way of radical generosity will feel like foolishness, especially as you start
- c. **Confront your fears** and anxieties about not having enough (security or pleasure)
- d. **Confront your basic heartset toward idolatry**
 - i. Big one
 - ii. **Idolatry isn't just bowing down in front of a bronze statue**
 - iii. At its heart (and the way the Bible talks about it), it's looking to something other than God to make your life work, to secure your life, to give you fulfillment and purpose.
 - iv. Money, stuff, and consumerism is perhaps the most basic and pervasive idolatry system in America.
 - v. And I'm extremely confident all of us have gone to its temple and bowed down in worship.
- e. Oh and you don't have to be rich for money and more to be your idol.
 - i. **Both rich and poor folks are tempted** to look to money and possessions to give them security and fulfillment.
 - ii. Greed (another word for financial idolatry) comes in both **spender and saver flavors!**
 - 1. Both looking to money (and just a little bit more of it) to secure and enjoy their lives
 - iii. Even the man or woman living below the poverty line can still be placing their HOPE in money.
- f. This is offensive.
 - i. **Matthew 6:24 "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.

ii. It's not Money itself that's good or bad – it's just a resource. But it is POWERFUL.

1. Dangerous.
2. Like Nuclear power.
3. Great power for good.
4. And great power for evil and destruction.

g. 1 timothy 6: 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.

3. It's not just morally evil to love and pursue money, it's also just plain stupid

12. Luke 12:15-21 ¹⁵ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

- a. Wait, say what now?
- b. This is essentially the modern Western dream..... Jesus seems so....
 - i. Anti-American!
- c. Maybe that's not what he means..... surely not.

13. ¹⁶ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

- a. Seems pretty good. Honest gain. Good! Farmer with a bumper crop

14. ¹⁸ "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

- a. makes sense, right?

- b. Good business sense
- c. This guy is basically the model American.
- d. Working hard with his hands
- e. Living the American dream, looking to work hard, be successful, save up money, and retire early
- f. And enjoy the good life, financially secure, and devoted to much deserved leisure and pleasure.
- g. *** This is our culture's ideal scenario.
- h. And by default, you and I want to be THIS GUY *****

15. ²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

16. ²¹ "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

- a. No less disruptive to his original audience than to us!
- b. Where did this guy go wrong?

17. FOOL

- a. Interesting he didn't call him evil (like he did others!)
- b. But a FOOL.... Stupid

18. **Why was he stupid?**

- a. Not because he was rich
- b. Not evil or stupid to have money
- c. But rather because he already had enough, and then he got more, and decided he should keep that for himself too.
- d. He assumed the money was for him.
- e. And that this life was what really mattered
 - i. He didn't see reality is truly is.
- f. Laid up treasure (in huge storage bins) for himself
 - i. And was not RICH toward God

19. What SHOULD he have done?

20. 1 Timothy 6: 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.

21. **THIS is our verse for today**

22. Because **most of us are rich.**

- a. By worldwide standards. Adjusted for all the things.
- b. **Median Income KSans** in the top 8-4% of the world (family of 4, individual)
- c. Even our poor, those living in true poverty. 11.4% of KS are at or below the Fed poverty line.
 - i. In the top 21-16% of the world.
 - ii. Yes financial and food insecurity are real. In our community. In our church!
 - iii. Yet even our poor are richer than 79-84% of everyone else in the world
 - iv. ADJUSTED for the things!
 - v. The fact that that's shocking is indicative of the deceptive nature of wealth.
 - vi. Those who have the most money, don't think they're rich.

23. **Now, what are we to do?**

24. Notice Jesus never condemns the rich for being wealthy

- a. This is HUGE to notice
- b. God does not seem to venerate poverty as a blessed state
- c. **But rather WARNS the rich of the dangers** and temptations that come with it
 - i. Don't be arrogant
 - ii. Don't put your HOPE (your trust) in wealth

1. It's stupid – money comes and goes.

d. Reminds them that **everything they look to money to give them can only be given by God.**

i. And he HAS given them to us through Christ

ii. God is not stingy toward us, but RICHLY provides for us with everything (not only that we need, but even that we enjoy).

e. And then Calls them to **use their wealth for Kingdom purposes:** the blessing of others

i. Do Good with your money and possessions

ii. Be RICH in good deeds (with your resources)

iii. Be generous and willing to share with others who have needs.

25. Generosity → use what you have like God would, were he you.

a. Since you can trust God as your ultimate provider and caretaker, we can be radically generous with our resources!

b. God loves to pump his resources through the fingers of his children.

i. Blessed to BE a blessing

c. Next week we'll talk more about the giving-to-bless-others side of this.

26. But it turns out his call for his children to GIVE Generously and graciously is also for OUR GOOD

a. 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.

b. Acts 20:35 – its actually more HAPPY to give than get (counterintuitive)

i. GIVE generously --- use your resources for good

c. Remember the rich farmer? He laid up treasure for himself too.

i. But he foolishly thought his treasure was his earthly possessions.

d. God wants us to hear that he WANTS us to lay up treasure for ourselves!

i. It's wise

- ii. It's good.
- iii. He wants us to invest wisely
- iv. But also invites us to see reality as he sees it.
- v. The TRUE and ETERNAL treasury isn't in our barns or banks
- vi. It's His Kingdom. And a holy – integrated life lived in light of Christ and his reign.
- vii. **“The Kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field” (Matthew 13:44)**

27. We're becoming who we'll be forever

28. Don't be a fool. Don't stand back up at the resurrection, holding on to Christ with one hand, and the dust of your earthly treasures in the other.

a. That would be foolish.

b. You CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

i. Not your money

ii. Your video game accomplishments

iii. The gorgeous house

iv. The trinkets and devices

v. Your Instagram roll

vi. That wardrobe

vii. Even that healthy body you're working so hard on

c. You can't take it with you. But you can send it ahead

i. But in a mind blowing development, we've discovered a way to convert our earthly treasures into eternal ones!

ii. These pieces of dyed paper and cloth

iii. Used and effecting things that will ripple into Eternity.

iv. **Jim Elliot: He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.**

d. Christ's words were direct and profound: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). What we do with our possessions is a sure indicator of what's in our hearts. ... But what we

do with our money doesn't simply indicate where our heart is. According to Jesus, it determines where our heart goes. This is an amazing and exciting truth. If I want my heart to be in one particular place and not in another, then I need to put my money in that place and not in the other. I've heard people say, "I want more of a heart for missions." I always respond, "Jesus tells you exactly how to get it. Put your money in missions, and your heart will follow."

i. **Alcorn, Randy. Money, Possessions, and Eternity . Tyndale House Publishers. Kindle Edition. Loc 2297**

- e. Put your money in the things of God, and your heart will live and rest there.
 - i. Burn with purpose and desire there.
 - ii. You can use money to affect your own heart
 - iii. And participate in your discipleship to Jesus

29. Train yourself for Godliness

30. Become a GIVER

- a. Radically graciously generous giver
- b. Not just for others. But for yourself. Be smart about it.
 - i. Your peace
 - ii. Your joy
 - iii. Deep wisdom that leads you to invest your treasure in God and His Kingdom, which is here now and is fully coming at the Resurrection

31. The counterintuitive cure for anxiety about money is to give more of it away

- a. **This has been true for me [My experience]**
- b. By default I tend to be anxious about not having enough.
- c. And as I read Randy Alcorn's book and wrestled with it with others, in my discipleship time with others,
- d. I decided to try Jesus out. To see if it really is happier to give than get.
- e. To trust his provision

- f. And see myself as rich.
- g. And act like it. By giving more generously.
- h. It's been pretty amazing how my anxiety around money decreases as I choose to give more back to him.
- i. And you know what, it's actually FUN
- j. So rewarding to help others when they're in need.
- k. I've yet to give and really regret it.
- l. Maybe Jesus knew what he was talking about after all.

32. Next steps:

- a. Honestly assess where you're at currently with thinking about and using money**
 - i. THINKING ABOUT – how do you REGARD money. Where does the love of money still function in your heart (we all have them),
 - ii. THEN honestly assess how you're USING your money
 - iii. How you assess your wealth & disposable resources
 - iv. What your heartset and strategy is toward giving?
 - v. Does your standard of giving impact your standard of living?**
 - 1. There should be things you CANT Do because of your commitment to regular sacrificial generosity.**
- b. Sit down and make or update your budget**
 - i. How much is coming in each month, how much is going out.
 - ii. Are you net positive? Negative? Neutral?
 - 1. Within reason, how can you maximize income and minimize expenses
 - iii. Not primarily so you can spend or save more
 - iv. But so you can GIVE MORE
 - v. Budget for giving
 - 1. We have a budget for regular giving (12%)
 - 2. And generous giving randos

vi. If you're married, sit down and have a conversation about this
THIS WEEK

1. Decide now when that will be

vii. If you're single, decide when you'll think about it.

c. Open up your financial life to a trusted other for feedback.

- i. Push against our cultures hyper-privatized approach to money.

- ii. Make it a part of the open conversations in your discipleship

- iii. I've done this with others, as a part of discipleship

1. In fact I'm going to do this with a couple of the guys I meet with.

- iv. Risky, awkward, embarrassing

1. Both for those who have had very little (or managed their finances poorly)

2. AND FOR THOSE Who had a lot (and were anxious about being judged)

3. Ask for big picture feedback on how you spend your money

4. And your standard of giving

- v. We all need help being pushed into growth in every area of our life as we disciple to Jesus --- INCLUDING WITH OUR approach to finances

1. Why WOULDN'T we open up to a trusted other to get eyes on this and help identifying next steps?

d. Begin practicing using your money for his purposes – the glory of god and the blessing of others

- i. Take a next step of generous giving

- ii. Give back to God by starting or increasing your giving to your local church

1. 1% challenge

2. 10 or 20% or 50%!

- iii. Then look for opportunities to give above and beyond – caring for the needy in our church fam, neighbors, poor and downtrodden in our city, WORLD
- iv. It's all God's money, and we're all given different gifts and experiences and amounts of resources.
 - 1. What God's looking for is a generous heart with what you have.

e. 5 VOLUNTEERS EXERCISE (will connect us into next week) -- \$20 \$20 \$30 \$50 \$50

- i. We want to give you money.
 - ii. God's money
 - iii. Mosaic, the church that gives back 😊
 - iv. Practice using God's money for his purposes (get creative)
 - v. Only requirement, you let us know next week what you use it for and how it went.
 - vi. Yes raise your hand.
33. End with prayer

THE CHOPPING BLOCK (stuff that didn't make the cut)

Next Questions: QUIZ: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE ACTUALLY SAY ABOUT MONEY

1. Money is bad – or at least a necessary evil
 - a. Wrong
 - b. Money is inherently neutral morally.
 - c. In fact, it has great power.
 - i. Both for evil and for good
 - ii. Both to shape and BE SHAPED
 - d. Bible says money is powerful.
 - i. And it's both dangerous
 - ii. And a blessing
2. God would prefer us to be rich financially
 - a. Prosperity Gospel heresy
 - i. Define
 - b. Fatally flawed biblical interpretation
 - i. Interpret God's promised blessings as temporal and financial NOW
 - c. No huge surprise that here is where a lot of our suspicion and cynicism comes from
 - i. Televangelists who promise if you send them money, God will give you even more money back – GOD WANT'S TO MAKE YOU RICH QUICK scheme
 - ii. Fleecing mostly older ppl on fixed incomes while they fly around in their 3rd new Learjet
 - iii. So many high (and medium) profile examples of preachers who embezzle.
 - d. God DOES promise blessing and riches to his followers.
 - i. But they're overwhelmingly pointing to richness of peace, joy, fullness in this life, and are ultimately fulfilled in the next life, the Resurrection
3. God would prefer us to be poor
 - a. He just wants his followers to divest themselves of all wealth, give it all away
 - b. Holy poverty not supported by scripture
 - i. Blessed are the poor (not the rich?)
 - ii. Rich Young Ruler told to sell all he had and give to the poor THEN begin following JC.
 - c. Those who are poor are encouraged, supported
4. He wants his followers to get as much cash as they can so they can spend it on themselves and enjoy the good life
 - a. No. we're blessed SO THAT we can be a blessing
5. God helps those who help themselves
 - a. No - Grace – gift! Undeserved. Unearned.
 - b. Balanced with the expectation that his followers work hard and do their best to provide for their families.
 - c. And that those who are truly lazy and refuse to work shouldn't be enabled.
6. God has a special heart for the poor
 - a. YES – Cause of widows and orphans!
7. God doesn't really care how you spend your money
 - a. Assumes another lie: It's your money
 - i. Heart of a steward → next week
 - b. It's all his, and we're called to use God's resources for His purposes
8. God wants you to give 10% back to him.
 - a. OT tithe → NT principle of gracious generosity
 - b. Yes and No and Yes
 - c. Give regularly, intentionally, sacrificially

9. God needs your money
 - a. Nope – he rich
 - b. Giving is for you, and for others
 - i. He loves to pump his resources through the hands of his children
10. Money can buy you happiness
 - a. Life does NOT consist in the abundance of ones possessions
11. Only rich people have to worry about the love of money/greed
 - a. Spender AND SAVER flavors
 - b. Mammon
 - c. Great God of our culture – chief idol! (take idol stuff from other doc?)
12. Our use of money changes us
 - a. YES
 - b. The stupor of mammon – the rich never think they are. And no amount is ever really enough.
 - c. We're not immune
13. You should wait to give until you're better off.
 - a. Wrong – if you don't give when you have less, you probably wont give when you have more
 - b. Don't waste the now on what might be
14. You should give WHEN IT FEELS GOOD – to things that interest you
 - a. Those are great. Have FUN WITH GIVING to specific people and causes. Let your personality, interests, burdens dive you to specific opportunities!
 - b. But the NT seems to think these should be placed on top of a foundation of regular, premeditated giving back to God.
15. You should wait to give back to God until after you pay off your debts and bills
 - a. It's all God's!
 - b. Honor him by bringing the FIRSTFRUITS. The first, the best.
 - c. Gross, not Net. Who do you serve? (Fellers)
 - d. Evidence your trust in God by giving to him first, priority, then doing everything you can to use the rest wisely.
 - e. God tends to honor these moves.
16. You shouldn't ever tell others what you're giving or how you're spending money
 - a. Cut Paste from our culture that is largely extremely private about talking about money and our personal finances
 - b. Misinterpretation of “don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”
 - c. If you're trying to impress others with your big giving, yah prob should hold off
 - d. But ...
17. Money is a significant aspect of our discipleship
 - a. YES
 - b. It's a major aspect of our lives.
 - c. And has significant impact on our personal and spiritual growth
18. The way we use money now has ripple effects into eternity
 - a. 1 TIM 6
19. Money is a blessing?
 - a. Every dollar is a gift from God.
 - b. Unless achieved through sin.
20. Keeping money is the pathway to joy
 - a. Acts 20:35 → its is more BLESSED deeply happy joyful to GIVE rather than keep
21. NEXT STEPS

- a. Decide what you want the legacy of your life to be with the resources you have.
 - i. Man that guy saved and amassed
 - ii. Man that woman had all the nice things
 - iii. Man they were able to retire so early and take so many vacations
 - iv. OR – They sure took care of a lot of people
 - 1. They were so generous.
 - 2. Stories at your funeral about how you helped them through tough times
 - 3. Or gave so faithfully to support this mission work or that aid organization
 - 4. Or perhaps even better, how much you gave that no one knew about, gave you credit for, until eternity.
 - 5. Only God knew you called in and paid that family's outstanding gas bill anonymously.
 - 6. Only God knew how much you gave to the homeless and destitute you met
 - 7. Only God saw how much you invested in the heavenly treasury
 - 8. God who sees what is done in secret, will reward you