



## Money and Stuff

Daily Devotional Guide/Notes: May 12-18, 2024

Metaphorical Carrot ... *that we sometimes catch, eat, hunger for more*  
Our cultural carrots?

### 1. Fame/Success (be more important than, have power over others)

- it works for a season, until your "success" isn't successful enough.

There are always more successful/important than you

- do we measure our "success" by being "esteemed" by others?

### 2. Perfection (longings for what doesn't exist: "if only" this, then...)

- other people have to be perfect (Jesus calls it judging)

- our circumstances have to be perfect (is there such a thing?)

- WE want to be perfect, according to the world  
and yes, Mt 5:48, "*you* are to be perfect... but *spiritually* perfect

- Jesus is concerned with your SOUL, little else

- other people/your circumstances shouldn't matter

- perfection here = spiritual perfection

### 3. Money and Stuff (items, wealth, treasures)

### 4. Approval of Other People

### 5. Comfort (life without suffering or sacrifice)

Raising the "perfect" kid? We want for them:

- become important/have power over others/be successful compared to others

- when they "fulfill their dreams," then they will be happy

- be rich, because that satisfies and fixes problems

- have MANY FRIENDS, even if they don't love or sacrifice

- be comfortable and never suffer

The question is: Does it work? Do any of these things "fix" our lives?

CARROTS = IDOLS that our culture considers "solutions"

= IDOLS that are culture says will satisfy, fix us

and yet: do they really satisfy?

Answer: SURE they do ... for a season.

But, then they don't satisfy anymore

... so you CHASE AFTER MORE (carrots)

..... but even when you catch/eat the carrot, it doesn't satisfy for long

..... so off we go, chasing more carrots

## If Satan is going to ruin your life, how is he going to do it?

Gen 3 - By shifting Adam and Eve's focus from current blessings to the proverbial apple, Satan set in motion the Fall of humanity ...

a) focus on the apple you don't have, instead of all you already have

b) temporarily satisfy with 1 bite; then, make you hungry again

\*It is "Turkish delight" = good taste, but makes you sick afterwards

YOUR JOB - you aren't successful enough

PERFECTIONISM - other people aren't good enough; nor are your circumstances; no conversation about your soul

MONEY - you need more of it for every possible reason

MARRIAGE - your current spouse is too "messed up"

FRIENDS - they don't really understand (or appreciate) you

COMFORT - you have too many problems, too much suffering

**CULTURE SAYS: Keep "chasing the dream/carrot," and it will work out. Yet, Who is more aligned with culture? Jesus or Satan?**

Heb 13:5, "... you should be content with what you have"

**The Great Reversal (yet again):**

**You have heard it said..... but I say to you.....**

Biblical Images of Culture:

- Mt 7:13-14 "The **WIDE/EASY PATH** leads to destruction...

- John 1:1-5, "the light shines in the **DARKNESS**..."

- 1 Peter 1:1, 13-19, "Exiles/strangers living in a **FOREIGN LAND**..."

What do these 3 images (WIDE/EASY PATH, DARKNESS, FOREIGN LAND) teach us concerning culture say to you concerning God's perspective on what is "healthy," what works, what satisfies?

**John 6:26**, "Stop working so hard for food that doesn't satisfy..."

Carrots = the proverbial good that *never* satisfies over time

Culture - what most people do and think

**VS. WHAT DOES SATISFY according to Jesus?**

= bearing good fruit

**GOOD FRUIT = peace, love, joy, hope, etc.**

**Money, Good Fruit and Experience: ever had the experience of owning money, spending it, and it does nothing to satisfy?**

- **often**, we have money, spend it, and it's the opposite, because what we buy doesn't "do" for us what we thought = unsatisfied

a) Christmas: buy a kid a Christmas present, and they don't like it

b) Inflation: money devalues, even when you "own it"

c) Investing:

- there is no "truly safe" investment, so we are always insecure
- it's all about reward vs risk (there is no "risk free" investment)

IE, the Great Depression

- a) stocks can go down, even to bankruptcy
- b) bonds can go down, even to bankruptcy
- c) 2008 crisis: real estate can go down. even bankrupt
- d) cash itself deteriorates due to inflation

Note: It's not enough to "own" cash! Now, you must "make money" just to keep the value of your money. But how much? What is enough? When is your money safe?

Where do people feel "safe" with money? (Charles Schwab, 2024)

- avg American household is worth \$192,900; \$48,00 in Mexico  
= avg American IS rich compared to ALL 3rd world countries
- avg. person says, I need \$2.2 million to "feel" wealthy
  - only 2% of US population has \$2.2 million net worth or more
  - so 98% of the population does NOT feel wealthy. 98%!
- ALL including the super rich (\$16 million net worth or more) say that they need/want more money and have not stopped trying to get more, and will NEVER stop trying to get more
- POINT: NOBODY ever stops wanting more money. Why is this?

**WHY? BECAUSE MONEY and stuff DOESN'T SATISFY!!!!!!**

### Chasing Carrots: On Money and Stuff:

**John 6:26, "Stop working so hard for "carrots" that don't satisfy..."**

**1 Tim 6:6-10**, "Actually, godliness is a great source of profit when combined with (contentment) being happy with what you already have. ...<sup>9</sup> But people who are trying to get rich fall into temptation. They are trapped by many stupid and harmful passions that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some have wandered away from the faith and have impaled themselves with a lot of pain because they made money their goal"

**Mark 10:25** 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."

Our challenge: Need money to live in the world; but, as disciples of Jesus, our GOAL must be to handle Money God's Way, to build treasures in heaven, so our investments in this life carry over into the life to come

**What are the purposes of God regarding our money?**

**... Well, what are the purposes of God regarding our lives?**

**Bearing Good (God's) Fruit = the purpose of ALL of life**

**... including our money**

*And you also know: If you are glorifying God, then you cannot at the same time be glorifying Satan*

### So How do we Glorify God?

**John 15:5-10**, <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything.... <sup>8</sup> **My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples."**

\*1 clear purpose of life (of disciples of Jesus) = to bear fruit

### HOW DO WE BEAR GOOD FRUIT + thus GLORIFY GOD WITH OUR MONEY?

The path to true wealth + good and faithful stewardship =

.. the journey IS the destination!

... it is how you handle money TODAY that matters, not so much what you spend it on (to a point)

... it is LEARNING to be faithful in the process of earning, owning, and spending money, it is not the "what you spend it on" (to a point)

\*people who are unfaithful in the process of gaining, owning, then spending money, cannot be trusted by God with ANY amount of money, can they? If you are unfaithful with a little, why would you suddenly become faithful when you have a lot?

Which leads to our point for today:

**What does good stewardship with money look like?**

**5 KEYS TO GLORIFYING GOD WITH YOUR MONEY:**

Back to Fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22), but in this case:

1. **Contentment** (Heb 13:5, be happy with what you have)
2. **Self-Control** (Gal 5:22) - always spend less than you make  
\*this includes **being debt-free**, except where "good debt is a tool" for you to be an ever better steward (rare, but for sure, possible)
3. **Patience** (Gal 5:22) - be willing to wait for the "right deal"
4. **Faithfulness** (Gal 5:22) - always 10% to the church you attend, because that is where YOU are helping "make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world" If you don't believe in the mission of your local church and support it via tithing, then why are you attending there?
5. **Generosity** (1 Tim 6:17-18) - you give BEYOND the tithe to other causes that mean something to you (IE, cancer research), you people's meals, give money to folks in times of need, etc.

\*As Wesley said, the best wealth plan = to give it all away and die broke

\*To all of us regarding our "wills" - if you don't give it away before you die, or at least put in your will to God's causes, no reward there

**Mark 10:25** 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."

**Why would Jesus say this?**

**A:** How hard is it, regarding your money, to ALWAYS do these 5 things?

- always be content (you feel like you have enough)
- always have self-control (you say "no" to yourself)
- always be patient (you can wait for anything)
- always be faithful (you tithe without question or conditions)
- always be generous (you pay for the meal, not them)
- \* in essence, to always see your money as GOD's MONEY, and you are simply blessed by God to be a good steward of it, for his purposes, to glorify Him with it?

The Truth: It's TOUGH. It's much easier to be selfish, greedy, obsess over it, always want more, not tithe, not be generous and believe that more money will eventually lead to happiness.

Our Society says = "There are a very few things in life that money can't buy, but for everything else, money will absolute buy it."

**Jesus says, I ask a lot of those who follow me;  
I ask little of those who do not**

What does Jesus ask of you regarding your money?

Are you glorifying Him with every financial decision you make?

Does your money "prove" your discipleship in terms of:

contentment?	self-control?	patience?
being faithful?	being generous?	

**Jesus says, John 8:32, "Truth sets us free," not any amount of wealth, and when we follow His "Truth" it really is amazing how (like everything else), we are liberated from the financial bondage that most people in our world simply never overcome.**

Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

### Items of Note:

**Contemplate and Create...a Thoughtful Look into the Parables** - Join artist, Sherri Jones, for a simple, slow and sweet gathering for anyone wanting to bring the parable of "The Sower" to life. June 2, 12:30PM-2:00PM. Experience the beauty of scripture, stillness and silence followed by playful watercolor painting. Supplies provided. Lunch will be provided! Sign up online

**May Women's Gathering** - This month we will be meeting at Taste of Italy for lunch. Come out Saturday, May 18 at NOON for a time to connect and enjoy some amazing food! Contact Gladys Childs

**May Men's Hangout** - Hey Guys, come out to Portillo's in Presidio on Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30PM to get some grub and hangout together. See Shawn Finney for questions

**Child Care Workers Needed** - see Cam

**Missions Focus for April/May** - These months, we're collecting toiletry items for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. Find a list of needed items at the Mission kiosk

**Can we join in prayer with or for you?** Drop your prayer off in the offering box or email: Mary Anne at corriendo01@gmail.com

**Counseling scholarships available** pastor@lifepointfellowship.com

### DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

**HABIT 1 of Faithful Discipleship: Have a daily devotional. How? 3 Steps:**

I. Work through the 5 Prayer Forms

**1 - Begin w/Centering Prayer**

- Mt 11:28-30, Name and Release your burdens/distractions to Christ
- Psalm 46:10, Consciously seek to clear your mind and "Be Still"

**2 - Intentionally Glorify (worship) the Lord**

- involves your participation by glorifying God, adoration, praise and worship
- Name the "Good" within you (the specific "fruit" you are experiencing today, like peace, or love, or joy, or hope, faithfulness, goodness, etc.)
- Name the "Good" around you (Gen 1:31, "And God saw that it was good.")
  - a. What do you see that God has made that is good today in the creation?
- Participate: Lift Up the "Good in You" with the "Good In Creation" in worship

**3 - Confess Your Sins**

- a. What have you done that is wrong? (From works to 7 Deadly sins)
- b. What have you left undone that would have been right?

**4 - Give Thanks to God for your Blessings** (name them)

**5 - Make Your Requests to God**

- a. for other people who are on your heart
  - include your church leadership and family
  - include people you know who need to accept Christ/get right with Him
- b. Make requests to God for yourself

2. Time of Listening to God through His Words

Read through the daily scripture passages, with the goal to "hear from God" on any point you feel relates to you. Stop and reflect on those truths.

**May 13 - Mon** - Heb 13

**May 14 Tues** - John 15

**May 15 Wed** - Gal 5

**May 16 Thur** - 1 Tim 6

**May 17 Fri** - Mark 10

**May 18 Sat** - John 6

3. Closing Prayer + The Lord's Prayer