

Biblical Discipleship

11



MONEY AND POSSESSIONS



LESSON 11: MONEY AND POSSESSIONS IN GENERAL

"What Should Be My Attitude Toward Money and Possessions?"

One of the greatest temptations we face as Christians in America is the tremendous materialism in our culture. We are geared to think that success is measured by the abundance of our material wealth; when in reality, a man's success is measured by fulfilling God's plan for his life as we saw in a previous lesson.

The Bible has a great deal to say about our attitudes toward physical possessions. The object of this lesson is to determine how God would have us deal with this matter in light of biblical principles.

- I. You do NOT have to be wealthy or poor to please God!
 - A. This is very important to understand. Spirituality is NOT measured by either the abundance OR lack of material goods. Nowhere in the Bible does God specifically condemn anyone simply for having money. Instead, he deals with their heart attitude.
 - B. The Bible does NOT say that money is the root of all evil. It says "...the LOVE of money is the root of all evil..." *1 Timothy 6:10*

C. Many godly Bible characters were wealthy.

- I. Solomon was the wealthiest man in history, yet observe his conclusion of this matter.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

2. Job was the wealthiest man of his day (*Job 1:3*), yet when all his wealth was gone, observe his attitude.

Job 1:20-22

3. Even the Lord Jesus Christ was accompanied by a group of wealthy women who provided for Him materially.

Luke 8:1-3; John 12:3

II. At what point does money and possessions interfere with my relationship with God?

- A. When you trust in it rather than trusting in God.

Mark 10:23-27; Proverbs 11:4, 28

- B. When your affections are set on your earthly possessions instead of your heavenly possessions.

Matthew 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-4

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

- C. When you think your own spirituality, another man's spirituality, or God's blessings can be measured by material possessions.

Luke 12:15; 1 Samuel 16:7

- D. When your objective in life becomes to earn as much money as possible.

Proverbs 23:4; Ecclesiastes 5:10-12

- E. When you think that you provide for your own needs instead of God providing them.

Philippians 4:19; Deuteronomy 8:10-18

- III. What are the proper attitudes I should develop toward physical possessions?

- * A. First and foremost, BE CONTENT with what you have. Understand - to be content is not to grudgingly resign yourself to accept your state, but to rest satisfied in God's provision; realizing whatever you have been given is a blessing.

1. We are to be content with our possessions.

Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:8

2. We are to be content in whatever state we find ourselves, resting in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:11---Note that Paul wrote these words while in jail!

- B. Realize that there are many things which are far more important than money, which money cannot buy.

1. Wisdom.

Proverbs 16:16

2. A righteous life.

Proverbs 28:6, 16:8; Psalm 37:16

3. A good night's sleep.

Ecclesiastes 5:12

4. God's word.

Psalm 119:14, 72, 127

5. Good health.

Luke 8:43

6. Quietness and peace.

Ecclesiastes 4:6; Proverbs 15:16, 17:1

Wants:

10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key memory verses:

Philippians 4:11; Philippians 4:19; Colossians 3:2

NOTE: Some common attitudes regarding physical possessions are:

1. If you get enough material wealth, you will be satisfied.
2. God must be pleased with wealthy people for Him to have blessed them so much.
3. A wealthy person must have violated God's laws to obtain his wealth.
4. Your worth as a person is measured by your material wealth.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

8. List five other attitudes you should develop toward money and physical possessions.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

9. God promises to provide your needs, not necessarily your _____. Your needs are both _____ as well as _____. Give some examples of your needs and wants. Use the verses provided for each on page 7 as well as your own personal studies.

Needs: .

C. If and when God blesses you physically, don't forget Him.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12; Proverbs 30:7-9; Revelation 3:17

D. Realize that if God takes all your wealth away, it should not affect your relationship with Him.

Job 1:20-22

E. Don't be envious of someone else's wealth.

Psalm 49:16-17; Exodus 20:17

F. Stay away from "get rich quick" schemes.

Proverbs 20:21, 28:20, 22

G. Finally, realize that our culture through the media and advertising has a tremendously negative materialistic influence on you. Guard yourself. Make sure your major desires are spiritual instead of physical.

IV. You must strike a proper balance in your attitude toward money and possessions.

A. *Proverbs 11:1* says, "A false balance is abomination to the Lord..."

1. The same Bible that says not to worry about your physical provisions in *Matthew 6:25-34* also says that if a man doesn't provide for his family he is worse than an infidel in *I Timothy 5:8*.
2. The same Bible that says "...the love of money is the root of all evil..." also says "...the laborer is worthy of his reward." *I Timothy 5:17-18*.

B. These are not contradictory statements, but balancing principles to show you how to handle physical possessions.

V. Basic questions.

A. What will God provide for me?

1. God promises to provide your NEEDS.

Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:25-34

2. Those NEEDS will be physical as well as spiritual.
3. You must discern between NEEDS and WANTS. This is a very difficult thing to do, especially in our society. Compare the following verses on needs and wants.
 - a. Needs---*James 2:15-16; Hebrews 4:15-16; Mark 2:25*

6. What does the apostle Paul teach us through the attitude displayed in the following verses?

A. *Hebrews 13:5*

B. *I Timothy 6:8*

C. *Philippians 4:11*

7. List six important things that money cannot buy and that only God can give you.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

4. List five wrong attitudes towards money that will interfere with your relationship with God. Give a scripture verse that helps you best understand each wrong attitude.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

5. What is the most important attitude you should develop toward physical possessions?

b. Wants---*Psalm 23:1; Proverbs 13:25; Philippians 4:11; James 1:4*

NOTES

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Lesson #11

1. Does the amount of wealth you have determine whether or not God is pleased with you? _____
Briefly explain.

2. What can we learn about man and money from *1 Timothy 6:10*?

3. Two men in the Bible who were very wealthy had an attitude that was uncommon among others. What was so different about their attitude concerning wealth?
 - A. Solomon

 - B. Job