

Small group optional guide: The endless pursuit of money

UP; we grow in our love for Jesus through His word and worship

WORD: Luke 12:13-28, 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Consumerism; the endless pursuit of more. Where does it end?

- The Money Charity calculates UK credit card debt is around £2,363/household. Some of us are spending what we don't have to buy what we don't need.
- TikTok or Facebook or YouTube ads tell us 5 sure-fire ways to guarantee wealth. Yet Get Rich quick schemes are just greed repackaged. The kingdom of God is a get rich slow scheme - our rich inheritance is in Christ.

So why did Jesus talk so much about money and wealth?

- 15% of Jesus teaching and 11 of 39 parables

1) You can love God, or you love money - pick one. Matthew 6:24. Loving money is motivated by greed, God and pursuing God is motivated by love

Jesus didn't say it was difficult to love God and to love money, he said it was impossible. Pick One.

2) Chasing money risks apostasy (losing faith) and a life full of regrets; 1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

Money is only a means of exchange, but it takes on the characteristics of the person who owns it.

3) The love of money matters, To love money more than God is idolatry and leads back to our slavery to sin.

4) The love of money is a sign of the last days; 2 Timothy 3:1-2, 4 (People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money...lovers of pleasure)

Read the parable of the rich young fool; Luke 12:13-34

The real tragedy is not that the man died prematurely, but that the rich man lived without God and died without God.

The seductive lie is - pursue pleasure here and now, because that is all there is. God calls that foolishness.

The disciples had a different issue, worrying that they would have enough, Jesus reassures them that their Heavenly Father knows what they need.

Money is not simply a wealth issue, it's a heart issue.

Let's remind ourselves of some biblical principles about wealth, greed and generosity:

As you sow, you will reap - Galatians 6:7

Give and it will be given to you - Luke 6:38

Questions:

Which the the below top tips do you struggle with:

10 Tips: Be free from the love of money

1. Give to God first - learn to live out of the rest.
2. Be content with what you have
3. Be generous and hospitable
4. Live simply, don't simply accumulate.
5. Live within your means - Track what you spend
6. Avoid getting into long term card debt
7. Steward what God has given you for yourself and others
8. Keep spiritual practices - Sabbath rest, fasting, tithing
9. Remember the poor, particularly fellow Christians
10. Follow the Holy Spirit's leading

RESPONSE

We each have a bowl in our hands, we heard God ask "do I come first?", sometimes we fill our bowls with treasure that is not Jesus. If you know that your bowl is full, pour it out and invite Jesus in. what a challenge to pick either God or money.

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WORSHIP songs: -

Great Things / Lion and The Lamb / Same God / Holy Forever
Build My Life

OUT; we reach out to show people outside of JCC that God loves them

- When is the last time you shared your faith with a non Christian?
- Do you ever plan how you will start your conversation?

Here are some potential tips:

- Love first and love last; be kind, be friendly and care about the one you meet
- Hello my name is..... I just needed to tell you that Jesus loves you
- Do you know Him?
- is there anything I could pray for you about?
- I could pray for you now or I could pray as I carry on walking?

Could you do this a small group one morning or afternoon?

What would stop you? We all need the power of the Spirit to be witnesses of Jesus; especially when approaching people like this!

- If there are people, neighbours, work colleagues or parents at your children's school, name them and pray for opportunities to share the love of Jesus and the gospel with them

IN: here are some key dates...

1) **JFM Manfood - This Thursday 27th June**, we have our next Jubilee For Men Manfood here at 7:30pm. Manfood is a time to enjoy great food, drink, and fellowship with other men. £5 will cover food and drink. Sign up through our website, or through the link shared on our Facebook page.

2) **Members Evening** - On **Sunday 21st July**, we have our next members evening. A members evening is an opportunity for the Leadership of JCC to communicate exciting new projects, important family information and challenges facing the Church, with its membership. We ask that every family unit is represented, allowing us to effectively share in one, safe place

3) **Uganda FUNdraiser Quiz - Saturday 6th July 6.30pm** for 7pm start; we are raising money for International Needs Uganda Water Project, one of our Jubilee Initiatives. Entry £10 per person and we would like teams of 8 to 10. Don't worry if you don't have a team as we can put you together with others. Bring your own snacks for table - bar provided to purchase drinks along with Ugandan coffee. There will also be a raffle so bring some cash with you! To book your team in asap please see Rob or Marion Baker (get them to stand up if they are there), email mazzabaker@gmail.com or phone 07808 926404.

4) **Zoë Baker is leaving** again on mission on the 10th July and is hosting an event to share what God has been doing in America and the Dominican Republic and also her plans for the next 6 months and what God is leading her into. This will take place on **Sunday 30th June from 3-4:30pm here in the Zambezi room.**