

Jesus C.F.O (Week 3): Financial Advice from a Criminal
Yesterday's Sermon - In 10 Bullet Points or less



1) Whereas the Gospel passages covered in the next two weeks of this series offered fundamental and broad principles to guide us, yesterday we found Jesus at His most practical about money.

2) Jesus tells a story about a dishonest manager, followed immediately by Jesus telling us four takeaways we should remember from the parable (see Luke 16.1-13; note - we didn't cover the 4th of these takeaways in verse 13 because it is identical to Matthew 6.24 covered in last week's sermon).

3) Jesus' first observation is that people out in the world at large tend to manage their money and possessions better than "the children of light" do (Luke 16.8b).

4) Though money and possessions are moved from center stage in the life of a Christian and though we are to "seek first God's Kingdom" and its work (Matt. 6.33) and trust God to provide for our needs, it is also true that God expects us to handle our money and stuff wisely.

5) The second takeaway Jesus mentions is that there are fewer uses of our money and possessions wiser than building friendships (Lk. 16.9).

6) We spend money on a lot of things, some of which are necessities, some of which aren't, but do we ensure that we use some of our money and stuff to build lasting relationships?

7) You simply can't underestimate the value of friendships in your life; as C. S. Lewis puts it in *The Four Loves*, friendship raises us to the pinnacle of being human.

8) Moreover, money comes and goes, it ebbs and flows, whereas friendship is far more reliable and stable: as Proverbs 18.24 says it, "A person with many companions may come to ruin, but there is a kind of friend who sticks closer than a brother or sister."

9) The third and last takeaway Jesus mentions is that wise financial stewardship is how God knows He can entrust even greater Kingdom use and impact to us (Luke 16.10-11).

10) We ask over and over again in our lives, "Can I trust God?," but it's also true that we ought be asking, "Can God trust me?," and according to Jesus in yesterday's passage, a window into that is how trustworthy and reliable we are with our finances.

Dive Deeper This Week

1) Yesterday's gospel passage highlighted the need for us to be wise about our money and stuff. There's no better place in the Bible to tap into such wisdom than the "wisdom literature" of the Old Testament:

- This article lists 50 verses in the book of Proverbs that you can peruse, ponder, and apply: [101 Biblical Proverbs About Money](#)
- You can supplement those passages in Proverbs with this one in a different O.T. Wisdom book, Ecclesiastes: [Eccl 5.10-20 NRSVUE](#)

2) If our faithful financial stewardship is one way God knows He can entrust us with even more important things, what's one area of your personal finances you can manage more wisely and reliably? At the very least, make this a matter of prayer this week, asking God to help you see where you can improve, and then showing you how to do it.

3) Make a plan for how you can use some of your money or possessions purposefully and intentionally to build better friendships. What might that look like for you in the particulars of your present life? And in case you need a little biblical reminder about the superlative value of friendship, try this beautiful little slice from the wisdom literature of the O.T.: [Eccl 4.9-12 NRSVUE](#)

4) Sprinkle throughout your week these devotionals that cover a few different passages in the Bible about money...a small way to get a little wiser:

- [The Burden of Money](#)
- [Is There a Heart in the Treasury?](#)
- [Your Money or Your Love](#)

5) If it would help in your quest to be a better financial stewardship. check out this summary of the findings in one of the better books on the basic psychology of money and personal finances: [The Psychology of Money by Morgan Housel | Sam Thomas Davies](#)