

“Upstream: Money”

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Matthew 6.19-24

Jesus' conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount:

- If you are really following me you should _____
_____. (Matthew 7.21, 24)

Three images that make one point: (Matthew 6.19-24)

- Our highest priority is to serve Jesus with all that we have—including _____.

That includes investing in what will last (6.19-21) and keeping our eyes on the goal of building for the kingdom (6.22-23).

An important warning:

- We are wealthy. We need to remember that with our wealth comes both a _____
and a _____.

We're responsible to use our wealth wisely, to build for His kingdom.

We're reminded that wealth is dangerous—it pulls us away from God. (Matthew 6.24)

So, how do we do actually serve Jesus with our money?

1. Stay away _____ . (Proverbs 22.6)

Debt stresses you out, robs you of joy, and prevents you from freely serving God with your money. If you can, avoid it. If you're trapped in it, make a plan and get out now!

2. _____ to God. (Malachi 3.1)

The Biblical minimum is 10%--so aim for it. But if that seems impossible make a plan to start small and then commit to working towards (or exceeding) that goal. Put God to the test in this!

3. Commit to _____ .
These decisions are harder than you might think.

Good vs. Best. It's easy to fool ourselves into thinking that greed doesn't affect us. (Proverbs 6.6-8, Matthew 6.19, 1 Timothy 5.8, 1 Timothy 6.17)

Talk it over... with your friends, family, or Growth Group

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

- When push comes to shove, what and/or who do you put your trust in? Your money, God, or something else? Do you feel like you can actually trust God with your money?
- Why do you think God had you here today? How did you encounter Him during the worship experience today? What do you feel like you need to do to respond to Him today?

Some next steps: Here are some things you can do this week to dig deeper:

- If you are in debt and would benefit from getting some expert advice on putting together a plan for getting out of debt please call the church office this week at 918.299.1989 and ask for Mike King, or you can drop him an e-mail at king@rcctulsa.org. We have some friendly financial gurus who are willing to help you put together a plan to face your finances. All calls and e-mails are kept confidential.
- Block out some time this week to sit down with your checkbook and do a "searching moral inventory" of your finances. Don't do it alone—have this conversation with a spouse, parent or trusted friend. Look closely at your money and ask the questions "Where does it all go?", "What percentages of it goes where?", "How does my spending line up with God's wisdom on money?", and "What does my checkbook tell me about the state of my heart?".
- Once you've done that, don't just leave it there. Have an honest conversation with God about what—if anything—needs to change, and then commit to doing that.

