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The Role of Money in our Lives

(Lu. 16:10) "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much + he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much."

Here Christ is referring to mammon - money ^{i.e.}
+ He views money as a very little thing.
But He also states that it is important that we be faithful in small things because that determines whether we can be entrusted with large responsibilities i.e. spiritual jobs ^{things} in His Kingdom.

What is God's Purpose with our Money

- ① To provide for our basic needs - (Mt. 6) the clothing, food etc which will love to worry about - + spend hours + hours
- ② To use it for a common cause for His work → e.g. collection for Jerusalem poor
- ③ To use it to show us His will for our lives - He takes it away sometimes
- ④ To illustrate His power as He moves to meet our needs or members in the Body of Christ. When we pray for needs + we see God moving to meet these needs our faith is built

The basic goal God has for each of us in regard to our money is that we should become free - free from its power

- ① Free from debt Rom. 13:8 owe only love
- ② Freedom from financial pressure + worry Mt. 6

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- 3. Freedom from a focus (I Tim 6:9) on money - it is a snare, brings harmful desires
- 4. Freedom from ^{the} entanglement of business where the longing for it causes a person to wander from the faith (I Tim 6:10)
- 5. Freedom from guilt in our financial dealings (James 5:2)

What we are to be doing with our money
Receiving & Spending & Giving

I Receiving money - (a) by WORK - (Rom 12: if a man will not work do not let him eat)

→ (b) creative resourcefulness (Prov. 31) as we women use our families' income wisely & prudently - not wastefully

(c) through some miraculous way which God Himself initiates using His people.

II Spending (a) Our money is a stewardship from God - it is never our money. Like the Talents of gold given to the servants in the parable Jesus told. The money never belonged to the servants - the master just entrusted them with it & wanted to know what they had done with it while he was away.

The same truth appears in the parable of the rich fool - he hadn't cheated to get his granaries full. The problem was that he said my grain, my land, my barns & how wrong he was, that might he was snatched away from "his" property & he had it no longer - the wrong focus

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(of our money)

So in our spending, we cannot simply spend it the way we feel like spending it; but rather every cent is to be spent fitting into the plan God has for us & the money which He entrusted to us. In general, we should be

- ① careful how we spend & should develop
- ② sales resistance, ③ finding the best buys,
- ④ paying promptly for purchases.

Working on margins & credit buying are not Scriptural principles - they lead to economic bondage. It's not God's will

III Giving

- we are commanded to give to the work of God in the Body of Christ. This is taught in (Gal. 6) + (Heb. 13) + (I Cor. 9)

my parents

Those who need money for the work of Christian service should have it - it should be intolerable to all of us that the work of Christ is being thwarted by something so unimportant as money. As hard as it is to minister ^(because of Satan + others) for spiritual hindrances, money is ~~that~~ one barrier that should never be in the way for the man or woman of God -

We should give to the poor - especially the "household of faith". For anyone to suffer & not be able to pay bills - this is totally unacceptable especially to anyone who has enough to get by on.

We should seek to give to the poor of the world. It is repeatedly commanded in the Bible & is given great priority by God Himself

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