



A Christian View on Money

Matthew 6:19-21

Topical message on giving!

Sermon given on April 14, 2019



Sunday Morning Service

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Opening Comments

- Turn to **Matthew 6**
- It might surprise you to hear that God has a different viewpoint on a lot of things than the world does
- Some of the big areas of difference today are gender identity, sexual ethics, and the sanctity of life
- It might not surprise you to hear that most Christians viewpoints on those topics more closely resemble the world than they do God
- That's a problem! Christians and churches ought to have a viewpoint that reflects God's view on all topics of life
- Sadly, that is becoming less and less true
- As a church, we believe we are mandated by God to teach you the truth, even if it runs counter to the culture we live in
- Even if it means that some people will leave the church because we don't accept what the world sincerely and passionately claims to be truth
- One of the areas where the Christian worldview differs from the secular worldview is in the area of money
- And just so we get it out of the way early, at some point in this message I am going to tell you that you ought to give money to the church
- But before I do that, I am going to share with you God's heart for the money He gives you
- Last week I said that God is a giving God – it shouldn't surprise us that He wants His people to be givers too
- But before we talk about that we should address how the world sees money and then examine the topic from a Christian worldview
- Let's pray and ask God to show us His heart for this topic

Teaching

- **A Christian View on Money**
- Money means different things to different people

- Two of the common words used to describe what money means are freedom and choices
- There are others but I want to unpack these two and show you how the Christian worldview differs from the secular worldview
- For some people money = freedom
- My question to them is, ‘Freedom to do what?’
- Their answer is likely to be, ‘Whatever we want!’
- My response to that is, ‘Is that a good thing?’
- As Christians, freedom is not something we strive for **John 8:36**
Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.
- Money cannot give you what God has already given you freely
- On the other hand, money has the power to enslave those who handle it improperly
- Money only gives a false hope of freedom
- The second secular worldview on money is that it provides choices, or options
- My question to them is, ‘How many choices do you need?’
- Their answer is likely to be, ‘The more, the better!’
- Really? How many of those choices is the right one? Only one!
- Increasing the number of choices only increases the probability of making the wrong choice **Psalm 37:4**
Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.
- Rather than wrestling with lots of choices, I would rather the Holy Spirit point to the one right choice that leads to God’s perfect will in my life
- Money is important – it is important to Christians and non-Christians – just not for the same reasons
- Last week I said that money comes from God, not directly
- God gives us abilities and opportunities to exercise those abilities in exchange for money, which we then exchange for the things we need or want in life
- Last week we saw that God distributes His grace to each of us differently for reasons that are in the unreachable depths of His perfection

- Non-Christians use the money they get to seek the false hope of freedom and hope to stumble upon happiness with the choices they believe money provides
- As Christians, I believe we are called to a different viewpoint of what money is
- Jesus talked a lot about money, including here in the Sermon on the Mount
- **Matthew 6:19-21**
- Jesus says here that this is a heart-matter
- We live in a culture that worships money or the things money can provide
- Jesus is calling us to a different relationship with money
- This morning would like to share three attitudes Christians should develop toward money
- First – **Everything belongs to God! – Psalm 89:11 NLT**
The heavens are yours, and the earth is yours; everything in the world is yours—you created it all.
- God created everything – everything is His
- God gives things to us, but he never relinquishes ownership of those things – including money
- Turn to **Genesis 39**
- The second Christian attitude toward money is connected to the first – **We are called to be stewards of everything God gives us!**
- There is no direct comparison in modern western culture for the word ‘steward’
- But we see several examples in the Bible
- One of the more famous ones is here in Genesis 39
- **Genesis 39:1-6a**
- Joseph had the responsibility of tending to all of Potiphar’s household, business, and stuff
- At no point was it Joseph’s stuff – Potiphar retained ownership
- God owns everything – even what He gives us – calls us to take care of His household, business, and stuff
- Someone might be thinking, ‘What about me?’
- God is not calling us to some impoverished form of slavery

- The steward was one of the most important people in the household and enjoyed the fruit of His service **1 Timothy 6:17**
Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.
- If God gives you more than you need to survive, enjoy it
- Just don't forget that it doesn't belong to you
- Also, remember the third Christian attitude toward money –
Everything is a tool to be used as an expression of God's love to glorify Himself, bless others, and to grow faith!
- If we accept that everything is God's and that He has called us all to be stewards of everything He gives us, then there is something He wants us to do with what He gives us
- The Bible teaches us that God is love – expressing love is bound up in His very nature **1 John 4:9-11**
In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- Our response to God's love is to love others
- God expressed His love by giving us His Son and everything else in this life and then eternal life in heaven
- Based on what God did, John says, '...we also ought to love one another.'
- God gives us more than we need so that we can use the abundance to express God's love to others
- One of the practical ways we do that is by giving money
- There are many ways that you can glorify God in your giving, but the one that relates to what we are doing here is to the church
- For thousands of years, since God first started calling people to worship Him in an organized way, He has called people to support the work of worshipping God
- The church exists to be a place where people gather to worship God
- It also serves as a place where people can grow in their faith and as an expression of God's love and hope to the world around us
- If you find a church that is trying to express God's love by glorifying Him, blessing others, and growing faith – you should join them in that

work by giving some of what God has entrusted to you so that work will continue and grow

- Whenever this topic comes up someone asks, ‘How much should we give to the church?’
- My answer, ‘Give like Jesus did!’ **2 Corinthians 8:9**
For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
- Jesus gave everything for you
- Before you are able to give the way you should, give everything back to God – it’s all His anyway
- Then you give what you believe God would have you to give
- If you need some kind of a starting point – then start with 10% - it has a strong biblical basis – but New Testament believers are not limited
- Remember, your giving is an expression of love
- We know how much God loves us based on what He gave for us
- To express my love for Kelly I would spend stupid amounts of money – I don’t have to – she doesn’t expect it – I want to because of my love
- Your giving is a reflection of your love for God **Charles Spurgeon Give as you love and measure your love by your giving.**
- Listen, money is important – it is just as important to the church as it is to you
- As a church, everything we have came from God and belongs to Him
- We are called to be stewards of everything He gives us through your giving
- Through your giving we seek to express God’s love by glorifying Him, blessing others, and growing faith
- I am not ashamed to tell you that we want to do more
- Recently, we looked at a space that if we moved into it, we would be able to do more
- I sense God is calling us to do more – to expand our borders – to reach more people for Jesus
- To do more for God, we need more from God – and that more comes through people like you with God’s attitude toward money
- **Everything belongs to God!**
- **We are called to be stewards of everything God gives us!**

- **Everything is a tool to be used as an expression of God's love to glorify Himself, bless others, and to grow faith!**
- Listen, this is not a rebuke because you are giving enough
- I have no idea how much anyone gives, except Kelly and me
- We believe God wants to do more and we need your help to do it
- We want you to be a part of what God is doing through this church
- One of the easy ways to do that is to set up automated giving
- Go to CCFV.life and click the Give button – you can do it on your phone - take 2 or 3 minutes – if you need help, go see Andy
- And I would suggest that you do it before you leave – act of faith
- We are going to partake of Communion – a celebration of the greatest expression of God's giving love
- Take a moment and examine your attitude toward that gift and everything else God has given you
- **Prayer**