



The Journey

Lesson #8


Money Part #2

Jim Hoffman



Money

We live in a time like none I've seen in my lifetime – a time when the danger of financial catastrophe is not only probable, but likely. What will happen to a people who have lived in luxury when it is all stripped away?





Materialism and Asceticism

- ❑ Materialism is money-centered and possession-centered. Materialists measure a person's worth by the person's possessions.


- ❑ Asceticism is thinking that all money and possessions are evil and that by rejecting money and material one becomes more spiritual.






Materialism and Asceticism

“Water is a gift of God. Used properly, it gives life. Out of control, it floods, drowns, and destroys. Fire is a gift of God. Out of control, it brings horrible destruction and death. The greater a thing’s potential for good when used rightly, the greater its potential for evil when used wrongly. So it is with money—it has vast potential to be used for either good or evil.” Randy Alcorn






Money

- ❑ Although there's nothing inherently wrong with money, there's something desperately wrong with devotion to money.
 - ❑ People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. (1 Timothy 6:9-10).
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Money

- ❑ No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. (Luke 16:13)

 - ❑ “Money makes a terrible master, yet it makes a good servant to those who have the right master—God.” Randy Alcorn
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Money

- ❑ “Satan is the master of extremes. As Luther said, Satan doesn’t care which side of the horse we fall off, as long as we don’t stay in the saddle.” Randy Alcorn
- ❑ I don’t think I’ve ever met an ascetic, but I know more than a few materialists.
- ❑ The trap is to get us seeking some ‘other’ way to life satisfaction apart from God.





Tithes and Offerings

- ❑ We should learn to be more strategic with whatever money and possessions we have.
 - ❑ Most serious Christians tithe, but that is often as far as our stewardship goes.
 - ❑ Where are the 'poor' in our budgets? Caring for the poor is a central theme in the Scriptures.
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Tithes and Offerings

- ❑ “What will Jesus have to say to the western church with its billions in real estate holdings for the supposed purpose of honoring a God who says ‘I dwell not in houses made with hands’?” Tony Campolo

- ❑ I am coming to the conclusion that I’ve been an ignorant and unwise steward to have devoted my tithes to churches who consume large percentages of their offerings just to maintain their facilities.





Tithes and Offerings

- Barna Research reports that the more money a person makes the less likely he or she is to tithe.
- I believe the New Testament teaches sacrificial giving, not tithing. (my opinion)
- Your heart is where your treasure is.





Tithes and Offerings

“God is not glorified when we keep for ourselves (no matter how thankfully) what we ought to be using to alleviate the misery of unevangelized, uneducated, unmedicated, and unfed millions.”


Randy Alcorn





The Rich Man and Lazarus

“We aren’t told that this rich man was dishonest or irreligious or that he was worse than your average person. We don’t know that he despised poor Lazarus; we only know that he ignored him. He lived his life as if the poor man didn’t exist. He didn’t use his God-provided wealth to care for another man in need.” Randy Alcorn





Tough Questions

❑ So what are we to do with?

❑ The neighbor who squanders his paycheck on vices.

And now add – they have children.


❑ The person who could work a second job, but doesn't.

❑ The person who refuses to work.





The Poor

- “The worst thing we can do to the poor is ignore them. The next worst thing is to subsidize them—that is, to help them only enough to keep them alive, but not enough to assist them in developing the means by which they might move out of poverty. The poor are frequently lumped together into one group, as if they’re all the same. They aren’t.” Randy Alcorn
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Money


- ❑ “The poorest man I know is the man who has nothing but money.” John D. Rockefeller
- ❑ “Idolatry is not only wrong—it’s always unsuccessful.” Randy Alcorn
- ❑ It is as simple as this – we have been fashioned in such way that only God can satisfy the eternal needs we have.





Money


□ John Steinbeck wrote a letter to Adlai Stevenson, which was recorded in the January 28, 1960 edition of the Washington Post. “A strange species we are,” Steinbeck said. “We can stand anything God and nature can throw at us save only plenty. If I wanted to destroy a nation, I would give it too much, and I would have it on its knees, miserable, greedy, sick.”





Money


- ❑ During the days of the Iron Curtain, a persecuted Romanian pastor told a group of us, “In my experience, 95 percent of the believers who face the test of persecution pass it, while 95 percent who face the test of prosperity fail it.”

 - ❑ Hosea put it this way: “When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me” (Hosea 13:6).
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Money

- ❑ Christ offers us the incredible opportunity to trade temporary goods and currency for eternal rewards. By putting our money and possessions in his treasury while we're still on earth, we assure ourselves of eternal rewards beyond comprehension.

 - ❑ We should not feel guilty that God has given us more than we need, we should feel responsible to be a blessing to others.
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Money

- ❑ Mother Teresa devoted her life to helping the poorest of the poor. After observing her arduous work among the filth, disease, and suffering of Calcutta, a television commentator told her, “I wouldn’t do what you’re doing for all the money in the world.” She replied, “Neither would I.”
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Money

- “We’re not to feel guilty that God has entrusted an abundance to us. But we are to feel responsible to compassionately and wisely use that abundance to help the less fortunate.” Randy Alcorn
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Capitalism and Christians

- “Capitalism results at times in exploitation, because no system can eliminate sin. But capitalism is not built on exploitation, it’s built on common interest. In a truly free market, all parties will ultimately get what they want. For example, when you bought this book, presumably you were satisfied with the transaction—you profited from the exchange of currency for ideas and principles.” Randy Alcorn





Capitalism and Christians

- “Those who laud socialism ignore the fact that historically the poor usually fare better in capitalist economies. They also fail to recognize that when the profit incentive is removed from labor, someone must find another way to motivate people to work. There’s only one other way that works—and that’s coercion. The capitalist says, “You scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours.” The socialist says, in effect, “You scratch my back or I’ll break yours.” Randy Alcorn
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Questions

