



FOCUS

Title: the 'M' word
Date: Sunday 21st May 2017
Reading: Luke 18:18-30 and 19:1-10

Jesus was not reluctant or embarrassed to talk about money - in fact Jesus identifies 'money' as being the number one challenger to our devotion to God (Matt 6:24). For where our treasure is, there will our heart be also. (Matt 6:21)

A clear contrast

The Rich Young Ruler (Lk 18) and Zacchaeus (Lk 19)
Would you have predicted the end result of either of these encounters with Jesus (the 'nice' man leaving sad and the 'bad' man finding salvation)? Why do you think Luke placed these 'money' stories so close together? Who do you identify with in either story?

A clear directive – store treasures in heaven

Matt 6: 19-20 Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Does this mean that we should not 'save for a rainy day'?
How much is 'enough' savings?

Malachi 3:10 'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the

floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.'

Why do you think this is the only time/subject God says "Test me in this"? God's promise is incredible, do you believe it? Have you ever tested God on this – what was the outcome?

A clear response required

When it comes to giving money to God (His church) what emotions, questions and comments are stirred in you? Does 'Trust trigger fear'? Is God after our heart or money? Can God have one without the other? (Matt 6:21) What does it mean to bring God both?

Create a 'holy habit' of giving to God

Establishing a 'holy habit' of giving to God helps us to consistently honour God with our money - and it releases heaven around us! The 'holy habit' in the Old Testament was tithes (10% of income), offerings and giving to the poor (special need/appeals). Does this sound too much or too little? Does this trigger faith or fear in you? What stops us establishing this 'holy habit'? How can you overcome these obstacles and release heaven's flood gates?



Notes