



Honoring God with Your Money

James 5:1-6

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*Jesus told 38 parables in the New Testament, 16 of which deal with the subject of money.
1 out of every 10 verses in the New Testament mentions possessions.
The Bible contains 500 verses on prayer, 500 verses on faith,
but more than 2,000 verses on money.¹*

4 WARNINGS:

Issue #1: DON'T HOARD (v. 3)

Issue #2: DON'T STEAL (v.4)

Issue #3: DON'T BE SELFISH (v.5)

Issue #4: DON'T CHEAT OTHERS (v.6)

It is not wrong to be wealthy:

Proverbs 10:22, "The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it."

Deuteronomy 8:18, "It is [God] who is giving you power to make wealth."

Notable biblical examples of godly wealthy people: Job, Abraham, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Joseph of Arimathea and Barnabas.

It is wrong to trust in riches:

Proverbs 11:28, "He who trusts in his riches will fall."

Mark 10:24, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God."

The Results: God's judgment on your money

- Rotten Grain (v.2a)
- Ruined Garments (v.2b)
- Rusted Gold (v.2c)

Where the love of money will lead: Achan's lust for money and possessions brought death to himself, his family, and dozens of men in battle (Joshua 7). The prophet Balaam would have cursed God's people for Balak's payment (Numbers 22:4-25). Delilah betrayed Samson to the Philistines for a fee (Judges 16). Solomon's lust for more and more wealth led him to disobey flagrantly the prohibitions of God's law concerning the accumulation of large amounts of horses, gold, silver, and wives (Deut. 17:16-17). To gain wealth, Gehazi lied to Naaman and then to Elisha, for which he was afflicted with leprosy (2 Kings 5:20-27). Ananias and Sapphira withheld money they said was given to the Lord and were struck dead for it (Acts 5:1-11). In the ultimate act of treachery, the materialist Judas asked the chief priests, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" and then betrayed the Son of God for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50; 27:3-10).²

How To Honor God With Your Money³:

- 1) Secure Your Money Righteously (Proverbs 14:23; Proverbs 13:11)
- 2) Save Your Money Realistically (Proverbs 6:6-8)
- 3) Spend Your Money Responsibly
- 4) Share Your Money Redemptively (Matthew 6:19-20; 1 Cor. 16:2; Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:10-12)
- 5) Send Your Money – Before You (Luke 16:9)

¹ Tony Evans, *The Perfect Christian* (Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1998), 190.

² Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions and Eternity* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1989), 54-55.

³ Bill Bennett, *Mentoring Men for the Master Handbook* (Boone, NC: L'Edge Press, 2014), 107-110.