

INTRO

- When you think about money, what emotion comes to mind? Fear, security, desire for more? Indifference? Something else?

The *Money Matters* series explores the importance of our relationship with money in regard to our spiritual health, and how God calls us to manage the wealth, and possessions He has entrusted to us for His glory, our joy, and the good of others.

READ

Matt 6:19-25, 32-33

As you read and hear the words of Jesus, what jumps out to you?

REFLECT & RESPOND

Money is inescapable in our lives and world. The Bible has over 2000 verses addressing issues of money; up to 25% of Jesus' teachings are related to money.

Qu: Why do you think money has such a strong influence on our lives?

We live in a material world, and evaluating our relationship with money is crucial for our spiritual health. So, Jesus invites and challenges us to rethink our views on wealth and possessions through a series of important choices and questions:

- Two Treasures (vv19-21): investing primarily in God or me?
- Two Outlooks (vv22-23): generous or stingy?
- Two Masters (v24): God or Money?

Qu: reflect on something you treasure most in life right now. Is it aligned with God's kingdom or lesser purposes?

Qu: how does the way you view money affect your life and relationships? Would you describe your "eye" as healthy (generous, trusting) or unhealthy (stingy, fearful)?

You cannot serve both God and Money. — Jesus

Qu: have there been moments when money (or fear about money) dictated your choices more than trust in God? How can you begin to shift that?

Once we make the right choices Jesus outlines, he then shifts focus to our material needs and the appropriate attitude we can adopt in life:

*Do not worry about your life... Your heavenly Father knows that you need them.
For the pagans run after all these things... But seek first [God's] kingdom and his righteousness.*

- Two Postures: worry and chase? Or trust and seek?

Qu: What worries or anxieties about money are you currently carrying? How does it feel to hear that God knows your needs and promises to provide?

Application: What practical steps can you take to prioritize God over money in your life? Consider your giving and spending habits, lifestyle, and financial decisions.

RESPOND & PRAY

- Ask God to release financial anxiety and to help each one grow in trust and generosity.
- Consider praying about specific areas where you need to release control and trust Him.