

Lesson 3 – Finance 1

Nosey New Name

Read these Scripture verses below and then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper. When applicable, which is most of the time, answer in the first person. This means most answers will begin with "I" or include "my". Be honest, even if it hurts. If some honest answers make you see the need for change in part of your character (beliefs), that's not a bad thing. If you believe this lesson would be helpful to others you know, feel free to share it with them.

"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. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one 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. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" (Matthew 6:19-26 NIV)

1. How did your collection of "treasures" reflect where your heart was? How has this changed since your salvation? Where do you see the need for more change in this area?
2. If "The eye is the lamp of the body", what lights up your eyes? Be honest enough to include possessions here.
3. If "You cannot serve both God and Money" can money serve you? How can it or why not?

"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."
(Malachi 3:10 NIV)

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"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. " (Matthew 23:23 NIV)

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." (Exodus 20:8-11 NIV)

Isn't it interesting that God would give the Sabbath to a people of the land (farming and shepherding) whose work required labor every day of the week? From the beginning, God has guided His children toward a relationship of trust, to trust in the Father and to trust in His principles. Tithing, like the Sabbath, teaches us to trust God with our needs. Let's be honest, God doesn't need our stuff. Besides, it's all His stuff anyway.

4. Where is the element of trust in how you plan to use money after your release?
5. What is the difference between saving and hoarding? How might your lack of saving effect others?
6. Do you have stuff to have stuff or to give stuff away? Or is it somewhere in between? Explain your answer.
7. Do you give to get? What do you believe about giving?
8. Why should New Name Ministries get all nose about your finances?