

Word notes Sunday 8/03/09 Helen Parker
What did Jesus say about Money

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Jesus had quite a bit to say about the whole area of money, work and commerce and often used examples from these aspects of everyday life to illustrate a point about Father God's character or the Kingdom of Heaven. In these things he spoke to both rich and poor, spent time with both and had both in his small band of close disciples. Jesus does not condemn people who have money, nor 'blame' the poor for their condition but in all cases speaks about their attitudes to money and possessions.

Above all we are encouraged not to store up riches here on earth but in Heaven (Matt 6:19-21) the benefits over earthly investment are:

Earthly Investment

Long Term Security
Outcome unknown

Heavenly Investment

Eternal Security
Outcome known

How then do we obtain and store these treasures in Heaven? Here's a good start:

Tithe – OK this may seem basic but we need to keep our gifts to God both current and in line with His word to us. Regular review of our giving is important. Read Malachi 3:6-12 – God actually invites us to test his faithfulness in this area. Are willing to give God the first-fruits of your labours by tithing to the church?

Decrease Debt – Proverbs 22:7 says that a borrower is servant to the lender. Be careful when you borrow money as it ties you to the lender. The more you are tied to earthly lenders the less free you will be to follow God's call on your life.

Increase Generosity – not just in money but also in time, practical help, food, hospitality etc. All these are in line with God's will, both to those in the church and outside. God loves a hilarious giver (2Cor 9:7)

In difficult times it's good advice not to ask "why" but instead "what for" – what is God looking for you to do in such times. Remember Job's condition was reversed once he stopped asking "why me" and started to pray for his friends.

We will be running CAP Money courses soon, other churches nearby are CAP centres which will assist those in difficulty to organise their finances and help with severe debt. In the meantime if anyone is in difficulty or just needs sound advice now speak to any of the Trustees or Leaders who can either advise or suggest who you can talk to in full confidence..

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate, lead discussions around these points)

Ask if anyone would like to share how God has been faithful to them as they obeyed Him in Tithing, Offerings or Gifts?

How can our use of finances "tether" us and hold us down or back?

Discuss Helen's "What Next" points and what the cell and each in it can do

- Watch out for those around you
- Seek help or direct those in difficulty to eg CAP
- Use the penny Helen asked us to pick up on our way out to help us remember those in need
- Pray for those in need in the church and outside – do we know who they are?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Does the cell have a natural group of people it's reaching out to? If not how can you find one? Are you keen to help out with the Studlands contacting project?