

Money Matters 101

Quarterly Study

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE FOR STUDY 4

The Money Trap

Instead of satisfying, money makes us hungrier.

The strange thing about accumulating money is that it makes us want more. There is no other reason that billionaires still have a life quest of making more money. The average person is that way too. If you learn to live on a small amount, you often won't be tempted to buy a lot of things. If your income is suddenly enlarged, the amount of things you want to buy expands. Only God can reorient this natural tendency.

Lesson #4

Scripture:

Mark 10:17-22; Colossians 1:9-13; Hebrews 13:5



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PART 1

Identify the Current Issue

The word *more* dominates us and can ruin us financially. God wants to take us from the word *more* to the word *enough*. Financial contentment is truly rare. We are driven by the word *more* because:

- 1) We are scared of not having enough.
- 2) We think it can make us happy.
- 3) We think it will make us feel significant.

But God wants to replace the power of the word *more* with the word *enough*. The quality of our lives is not linked to having more money and the stuff that money can buy.

PART 2

Discover the Eternal Principles

Teaching point one: We need to value Jesus more than our possessions.

Teaching point two: We need to value the same things Jesus values.

Exodus 20 contains the Ten Commandments. They are as follows:

1. You shall have no other gods before me
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything...
3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God...
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy
5. Honor your father and your mother
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor
10. You shall not covet...

**NewThing**

Teaching point three: We need to have an attitude of gratefulness and contentment.

PART 3**Apply Your Findings**

There is a fairytale about a wealthy merchant, loaded with riches, who was in despair. He wondered why. He asked his companions how he could find happiness. "Look for a happy man," they told him, "and ask him to give you his shirt." The merchant searched for a long time until at last he found a happy man. "Give me your shirt," he said. "I can pay for it." The happy man began to laugh uproariously; he hadn't got a shirt! Then the merchant understood the cause of his own despair: man cannot live by bread alone. (Kitty Muggeridge, *Gazing on Truth*, CHRISTIANITY TODAY, Vol. 30, no. 5)

**NewThing**