

Money?

I don't know where the focus on money came from! As Christians our focus should be on acquiring the spiritual qualities and not on the material, goods and property.

Look what Paul says:

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (1Ti 6:6-12)

Instructions to the Rich:

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. (1Ti 6:17-19)

I believe that most people don't plan their expenditure, living beyond their means. They make debt to fund the deficit at the end of the month. This starts a vicious cycle of debt from which few escape. As Christians we should try to avoid making debts, saving up as much as possible before making the purchase, and then paying the debt off as quickly as possible.

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. (Rom 13:8)

Debt clearly ruins lives as shown by some of the 400 men who joined David.

And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him. (1 Sa 22:2)

I believe God doesn't want us to value anything higher than our relationship with Him. God tested Abraham with his son and I think very few could entertain that idea, or even be prepared to carry it out. That is truly exceptional faith, so I believe when it comes to finances we should meet all our commitments, save for purchases and bless others with gifts.

I believe this is the true message of the financial manager in Luke 16:1-9. Everything belongs to God and we just manage His resources for a little while. Note the Pharisees were lovers of money!

He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.'

So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God. The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail. Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery."
(Luk 16:1-18)

To serve mammon is to divorce yourself from God, as the Pharisees had!

By the following excerpts from the verses, it is clear that this world is only temporary. The next world, is the one to live for, where the true riches will be given to the faithful.

'we brought nothing into this world' (1Ti 6:7)

'rich in this present age' (1Ti 6:17)

'for the time to come' (1Ti 6:19)

'the sons of this world' (Luk 16:8)

'they may receive you into an everlasting home' (Luk 16:9)

'who will commit to your trust the true riches' (Luk 16:11)

'it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away' (Luk 16:17)

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. (Rev 21:1)

We must remember money is a means and not the goal, the love of money divorces us from God. Life without debt is freedom, and when one can save and bless others, then money really starts to work for you. God rewards a wise resource manager. We must manage what we have, correctly first, before going to God for supernatural favours.

-oOo-