

Marriage



MARRIAGE PART 28 - FINANCE

What an amazing honour and privilege it is that we get to steward the financial resource, which God entrusts to us as a couple. It's essential that both the husband and the wife understand whose money it actually is, as this will free them both from the love and control of money, and the consequences of this reality.

The Scriptures teach us that we cannot serve God and money and that in the last days difficult times will come because men will be lovers of money, with the love of money, being the root of all sorts of evil.

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

2 Timothy 3:1-2 "But realise this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy."

1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

As in many of the other areas we have already covered, it is essential that both spouses are free in this area of finance, so that united as one they can administer God's finances well.

Much of what we have looked at and discussed boils down to an issue of the heart, and finance is no different. It is the freedom of heart and generosity of spirit that lies within each person that will determine whether there is harmony within the marriage or not. A couple who are free and generous of spirit can be blessed and will be a blessing to others, where there is a lack in this area there will be turmoil and ongoing issues within the marriage.

It is fully possible to be unequally yoked in the area of finance just as it is in any of the other areas we have discussed. The way in which we were brought up and the model we have seen outworked, as we developed through childhood into adulthood, can have a massive impact in how we live.

- Were our parents generous?
- Did they model generosity?
- Did they look after number one and make sure number one was taken care of first?
- How was money treated in our home?

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." He also said, "Freely you have been given, freely you shall receive." These aren't just nice pithy statements. These are words of spirit and life which hold

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incredible power and life within them, once received and lived out.

Sons of God who truly know who they are, influence others with the finances God blesses them with. Sons who don't have a true knowledge of who they are, insulate themselves with the finances God blesses them with. In other words, sons who don't know who they are will put themselves ahead of anyone or anything, seeking to protect themselves and ensure their needs are met before ever considering how they could bless anyone else.

This son lives as an orphan or a slave, even though their Father is God. When I say son I mean both male and female as I am referring to the spirit.

The woman who gave all she had when she put her two small copper coins into the treasury is demonstrating a generous spirit, but that generous spirit comes from the spirit of identity called sonship. This woman knew who she was in Christ, and who her Father was, so from this heart posture gives all she had.

Mark 12:41-44 "And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.""

Whether you know it or not, Jesus observes what we do and how we are with His finances. He makes a point at mentioning that it was this woman who was the one demonstrating trust, faith and a generous spirit, because she gave from ALL she had to live on.

Followers who demonstrate this know Jesus as their source and resource, just like this poor widow did. It's the heart posture to enter into and live from for every follower.

Jesus wants every follower free from the love and fear of money. Without this reality there is a very high chance of God's kingdom life being choked in us and never being produced, due to the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth.

Money in the hands of the person or couple whose hearts are completely God's, is a very powerful combination. It is this person or couple that God will pour His resource into because He knows His resource will flow through them to others. The outcome of this is God invests in these kinds of followers and they will experience the magnificence of God's kindness, goodness and generosity in a way that others don't.

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QUESTIONS

1. Why is the posture of heart God's primary concern as opposed to just the act of giving?
2. Why does God warn us about the love of money?
3. Why is money such a powerful tool in the hands of those who are wholeheartedly His and free in this area?
4. How generous are you when it comes to finances and blessing others first?

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