

What Jesus Actually Taught ...

... About Money

“The love of money is the root of all evil,” or so the saying goes. Everyone knows that’s not literally true, but on the other hand, everyone knows it’s mostly true. Whether it’s a military war over who controls the oil, or a trade war over who controls the steel, it seems like there’s a lot of evil going on that’s being fueled by the desire of greed and avarice. Jesus said “Blessed are the poor,” but then he also spent significant time with wealthy people ... and he didn’t tell any of those he hung out with to give it all away and go be poor. This week’s Conversation will take a bold look at what Jesus really taught about money.

Luke 16:1–15

1. We are to _____ our possessions and not allow them to _____ us.
2. We are to give _____ and _____ of our wealth.
3. We are to _____ our wealth.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- Examine my relationship with my stuff
(<http://bit.ly/MoneyInventory>)
- Watch RightNowMedia: *Managing Our Finances God's Way*
- I'm willing to help with the Abundant Living Ministry

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Monday

Read: Daniel 10

Note: From this vision, we learn much about the spiritual reflections of spirit to earth. The literal “king of Persia” wasn’t the one resisting the messenger (the angel), but the spirit that was associated with the throne of Persia. Paul calls these “powers and principalities,” that is, the spiritual beings that attempt to influence people and places of power (see Ephesians 6:10–12).

1. Why do you think Daniel became so weak when he saw this vision?
2. How did Daniel regain his strength?

Reflect: What does it take to refresh your spirit when you feel overwhelmed?

Tuesday

Read: Daniel 11

1. How do you think these political and military actions affected Israel?
2. How do the true “people of God” respond to these actions (vs 31–35)?

Reflect: Do some Google research on this passage. Do you think all these prophecies came to pass? Why or why not?

Wednesday

Read: Daniel 12

Note: The vision in this chapter turns to what we often call the “end times.”

1. For whom does the angel Michael serve?
2. Who will be “delivered” through these difficult times?

Reflect: Do you think Daniel’s curiosity was satisfied by the vision’s conclusion? Why do you think his questions were not answered?

Thursday

Read: Ezekiel 01

Note: Ezekiel was a prophet who was forced to relocate to Babylon after the sacking of Jerusalem.

1. Where did Ezekiel receive his first vision?
2. How would you respond if you saw a vision of creatures like he saw?

Reflect: Take a few minutes to sketch your version of the creatures and their wheels.

Friday

Read: Ezekiel 02

1. What did the Spirit do for Ezekiel?
2. Why did the people of Israel need a prophet like Ezekiel to come to them?

Reflect: Ezekiel was told to not be afraid of the people, and yet there is no hint that the Spirit would protect Israel. Why do you think Ezekiel was told to not be afraid?

Saturday: *Who will you invite to worship with you tomorrow?*