

What did Jesus say about money and possessions?

It can be very useful to just take the words of Jesus about money and possessions and see what they tell us! Below is listed my attempt to summarise some of the key themes Jesus taught us with the words Jesus used that back them up.

There is a simple choice when you handle money

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Don't worry about money

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

We should trust God daily for our needs

Luke 11:3 Give us each day our daily bread.

We should give – especially to the poor

Mark 10:21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.

Luke 12:33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

Matthew 6:2-3 So *when you give to the needy*, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But *when you give to the needy*, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

Christians aren't always good at handling money

Luke 16:8-12 The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

Money isn't a be all and end all

Luke 12:15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

Real generosity with money is not about how much you give but whether it costs you to give

We need to have the right 'giving attitude' more than concern with 'giving rules'.

Luke 21:1-4 As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.

Use money wisely

Matthew 25:27 and the entire parable of the talents – there is only space for an extract here!

The Master said "Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest."

Being rich and wealthy is a real handicap to knowing God

Luke 6:20 Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God".

Matthew 19:24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Money is only ever a temporary solution to our problems

Luke 12:33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

God is more concerned with our needs than our wants

Matthew 6:25, 26 - Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Matthew 6:31 - So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

Pay your taxes

Matthew 17:27 But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.