

"Ordering things rightly and governing them well is at the heart of our faith."

– Thomas Aquinas

➤ **Handling wealth is a window into our character** (v. 10-12)

"Like water, money is a carrier. It can carry blessed energy, possibility, and intention, or it can carry control, domination, and guilt. It can be a current or a currency of love—a conduit for commitment—or a carrier of hurt or harm. We can be flooded with money and drown in its excess, and when we dam it up unnecessarily, we keep it out of circulation to the detriment of others." – Lynne Twist, *The Soul of Money*

Freedom of Simplicity by Richard Foster

- ✓ Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.
- ✓ Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.
- ✓ Develop a habit of giving things away.
- ✓ Refuse to be propagandized by the custodians of modern gadgetry.
- ✓ Learn to enjoy things without owning them.
- ✓ Develop a deeper appreciation for the creation.
- ✓ Look with healthy skepticism at all the "buy now, pay later" schemes.
- ✓ Obey Jesus' instruction about plain, honest, speech.
- ✓ Reject anything that breeds the oppression of others.
- ✓ Shun anything that distracts you from seeking first the Kingdom of God.

➤ **Serving mammon becomes a god that demands allegiance** (v. 13)

mamónas = money, riches, wealth, mammon (Aramaic)

"...I had nowhere to go and nowhere to be and a clock on my phone, which I looked at every five minutes. Yet I bought a ridiculously expensive luxury watch. I'd wear it around the house while dressed in \$14 sweatpants from Target and a T-shirt I got for free from my dentist."

– Michael Easter, *The Scarcity Brain*

"I own a house, small but comfortable. In it is a bed, a desk, a kitchen, a closet, a telephone. And so forth you know how it is: things collect." – Mary Oliver

Luke 12:15

...life does not consist in an abundance of possessions

"Money flows effortlessly to that which is its god." – Tim Keller

➤ **Crucifying greed is the groundwork for developing generosity** (v. 14-15)

sneer = to turn up your nose in derision, to mock greatly

- Achan's love of money brought disaster to himself, his family and his nation (Joshua 7)
- Balaam's love of money caused him to foolishly attempt to curse God's chosen people (Numbers 22-24), which resulted in his death (Numbers 31)



- Delilah's love of money led her to betray Samson, which ultimately led to the death of thousands (Judges 16)
- Ananias and Sapphira's love of money led them to boldly lie about their giving and cost them their lives (Acts 5)

Loving money makes people...

- forget God (Deuteronomy 8:11-14, Proverbs 30:9)
- trust in their riches (Job 31:24-28, Proverbs 11:28)
- be deceived (Mark 4:19)
- compromise convictions and be proud (2 Chronicles 26)
- steal from God (Malachi 3:8)
- ignore the needs of others (1 John 3:17)

Luke 12:15

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed..."

false narrative = things bring happiness

vs.

Jesus' narrative = 1 Timothy 6:17, don't put your hope in wealth but put your hope in God

"That's the reason why fundamentally Christianity is a different economic system because capitalism actually says, 'Whose money is it? It's your money, and you can do what you want.' Fundamentally, communism and socialism say, 'Whose money is it? It's the people's, and you must do with it as the community needs.' Christianity says, 'Whose money is it? It's God's, and you must do as he directs.' Those are three fairly different approaches, wouldn't you say?" – Tim Keller

Theophilus Hastings & Selina Shirley (married 1728)

Earl of Huntingdon, Lady Huntingdon



"Mr. Whitfield, I watched God save souls through the light of his all-glorious gospel, and now I see the one thing worth living for must be the proclaiming of the love of God to man in Jesus Christ. I am nothing—Christ is all."
– Lady Huntingdon

Book = *Gospel Patrons* by John Rinehart