



BETTER Money Matters

#npbetter

Week 5
5 of 12

July 5, 2020

Bottom Line: Money never satisfies.

Icebreaker: Are you primarily a spender or a saver? What is something you wanted to buy so badly but were disappointed after you accomplished the goal?

Key Verse: *Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!* Ecclesiastes 5:10 NLT

No one who has ever lived has had more financial experience to assure us that money never satisfies than King Solomon. He said that most of us believe more money will bring us **satisfaction, significance, and security**. The truth is, it brings us more **expenses**, more **worries**, and **more pain if it is lost**. Frustration and anger result. Money also brings us more **responsibility**.

Solomon says instead that God wants us to **be grateful for our wealth**. We should be grateful for what we have, and for the way God enabled us to get it. Thanksgiving is not a holiday for a believer; it is a lifestyle. God wants us to **be glad we have it**. Happiness is enjoying what we have, not just chasing more. God wants us to **be generous with it**. There is only one antidote to materialism and the disease of “more.” It is to give. This is how we store up treasure in heaven.

Begin using what you have for God’s purposes. Begin giving systematically and intentionally to God’s work. Then, **be godly with it**. God uses money to test our character and see who or what is first in our lives. Jesus Himself said, “You can’t serve both God and money.” The way God will test our priorities is ask us to give something away and see what is really first in our lives. Our giving doesn’t lie. It states clearly what and who is first. Regardless of what I say is first place, the way I spend my time and money tells what is really first in my life. Ultimately, I will be confronted with two key choices: Who will be my master? Where will I put my money?

God doesn’t need your money. He wants what it represents—you and your heart.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

The more money you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what is the advantage of wealth? (Ecclesiastes 5:11). How have you found this to be true?

Your yearning power will always exceed your earning power. Reflect and discuss.

If money brought satisfaction, the wealthiest people would be the happiest. How do you know that is untrue?

Never put your security in something that can be taken away. List things that can be and things that cannot be.

Counselors say that money creates more problems in marriage than any other issue. Discuss why and how.

LOOK IT OVER <<<

How can you be grateful for what you have and how you got it? Gratitude takes what you have and makes it enough. How have you seen that?

Discuss: Financial freedom comes not from increasing your income but decreasing your outgo.

How would you define generosity? All of us intend to be generous. We just never seem to be able to afford it. What does that tell you about generosity?

God has a systematic savings plan for eternity. It’s called tithing. What has been your experience with tithing?

How has God tested you to see what is first in your life? Do you believe that making the right choices gets easier over time? How has the increase of wealth affected God being first? Is it easier or harder?

NEXT STEPS

1. Purposely express gratitude every day this week for what you currently have. Thank God for the ways and means you accumulated what you have: gifts, jobs, inheritance, hand-me-downs...all of it.
2. Evaluate your current giving. Are you a tither? Wherever you are, consider increasing it. Tithing is not the top end.
3. Slow down your decision-making to make sure God is first in the way you spend your time and money.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Money never satisfies.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Matthew 6:20-21

Tuesday: Luke 12:28

Wednesday: Acts 5:1-11

Thursday: Mark 12:41-44

Friday: Revelation 3:17

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)