



The Hustle

When Money Is No Object

#nphustle

Week 5

5 of 5

March 31, 2019

Bottom Line: Until Jesus is first in your finances, He is not first.

Icebreaker: If you had to sing karaoke, what song would you choose? Or, what fictional person would you pick to be your best friend and why?

Key Verse: *“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 than food, and the body more 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? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life . . . the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”* Matthew 6:25-27, 32-34

For most of us, the financial pressure we feel has less to do with how much money we make and more with what we do with it. In the context of the rest of the world we have so much. But we lack self-control. We have foolish and self-focused priorities and no significant plan for our money, so we spend ourselves into a place of no margin. We get consumed with debt. When there is no margin, we worry. We become preoccupied with money, and all of life gets out of balance.

Jesus said the way out of worry is to put first things first. Life is so much bigger than the stuff that consumes our minds when we are occupied with money. When we put first things first, we get a new perspective. We quit thinking that more things will make us happier, more important, or more secure. When we put Jesus and the things that matter to Him first, a couple of things happen according to Jesus: 1) We distinguish ourselves as true Jesus-followers, and stop behaving like pagans; 2) God gives us everything we need. Like the proverbial butterfly; when we quit chasing, it comes and sits on our shoulder. We have what we need from the hand of God, without the stress. 3) Worry evaporates, because we have a new ability to take things one day at a time as we keep in step with the Spirit. What a wonderful, God-planned way to live!

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

We say, “If only I had more money.” Jesus says, “If only you had more self-control.” Reflect and discuss.

Jesus said money and the quest for more is the chief competitor for our hearts and devotion. What do you think? Why?

Think about how much easier it is to trust God with your sin, sorrows, and salvation. But giving your stuff to God is really, really hard.” Reflect and discuss.

“This is not about Jesus getting your stuff, but Jesus getting YOU. If you haven’t surrendered what you have, you haven’t surrendered. If you haven’t given Him access to what you have, He doesn’t have access to you.” How does this apply in your life?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

If suddenly we found out we had only a few days to live, we wouldn’t give our stuff 15 seconds of thought. That’s what Jesus meant when He asked, “Isn’t life more important than food and clothes?” What are you worrying about today that would cease to be important under those circumstances?

“We worry all the time because we don’t trust that our heavenly Father is going to take care of us.” Agree/Disagree. Explain your answer.

“My heavenly Father knows what I need, and He loves to give me good things. I don’t need to worry.” Is this difficult or easy for you to believe? How does your life reflect it?

“Please don’t kid yourself—until Jesus is first in your finances, Jesus isn’t first.” What’s your heart saying?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Attend Financial Peace University
- 2) Commit to getting out of debt.
- 3) Begin to give/take the 3-Month Tithe Challenge.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Until Jesus is first in your finances, He is not first.

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: Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23

Tuesday: Matthew 6:24

Wednesday: Proverbs 16:32

Thursday: John 14:27

Friday: Acts 20:35

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)