

~~WEALTH + WISDOM~~ FAITH + WEALTH

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All quotes are from class speaker unless otherwise noted.

Principle #1: Look at the big picture of what God's Word says instead of attaching yourself to a handful of verses.

Scripture can't be cherry-picked.

Read scripture as a whole.

Scripture is very clear on money.

Ecclesiastes 11:2

Ecclesiastes as a whole is a book on how to have wisdom in the world and all it offers: Spoiler alert: "It's meaningless."

<https://seedtime.com/financial-prayers/>

Principle #2: Jesus never talked about wealth without a warning.

Loving money is what's evil, so you can have wealth and be godly.

Approach it how Jesus did - with caution.

16 of Jesus' 38 parables concern the handling of money and possessions. He neither insults OR praises the wealthy or the poor – but He consistently points to the truth that stuff can't satisfy -- only He can!

If you get satisfied in your stuff, you won't look to be satisfied in Him.

Matthew 6:19-24

*19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,
20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

- Treasures on earth don't last.
- Treasures in heaven do.
- Lay up/store = collect.
- Encouraged against accumulating money and stuff. Encouraged against "more"
- SO much of the Christian financial advice pushes you to get more so you can give more – it acts like having more money is a good thing instead of how the Bible handles it and says "having more is a dangerous thing."

Don't pursue more.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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What you collect and accumulate reveals where your heart is.

Accumulate and collect things that are eternal which aren't actually things.

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"

- If your eyes are fixed on God, you will pursue godliness.
- If your eyes are fixed on money and stuff, you will pursue money and stuff.

You can't have eyes on stuff and a heart that's with God.

24 "No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money."

- God OR wealth: we have to choose one to pursue with our thoughts, time and efforts.
- This is the only time Jesus makes a distinction like this. If Jesus took the time to say you cannot serve God and money, it's crazy to attempt to live as if we can.

Our thoughts, time, and efforts will pursue one - wealth or God.

Jesus reminds us we aren't just following a truth, we're following Him.

1 Timothy 6:6-21

How to Stay Away from Loving Money (from 1 Timothy 6)

- Be content with what God has given instead of wanting more (vs. 6 + 8)
- Riches don't last (vs. 7 + 17)
- Rich is not wrong, but it is dangerous (vs. 9-10)
- Pay attention to what you're willing to do for money (vs. 9-10)
- Realize money has the potential to shrink your faith (vs. 10 + 21)
- Everything you own owns part of you (vs. 10)
- Love God and others – not money (vs. 11-12)

Our affection of the world can't be reduced, they have to be replaced.

- See God as your Provider (vs. 17)
- Practice generosity and sharing (vs. 18)
- Realize what money cannot give you (vs. 17 + 19)
- Be so rich in what you do for God that no one talks about how much money you have (vs. 18)
- Saving some money is fine; hoarding money is not. Salvation is your security, not saving (vs. 19).

Salvation is what your security is in, not money.

- Remember "knowledge" is not the same as faith (vs. 20)
- "Flee, fight, take hold" = not loving money is an active fight, not a passive one (vs. 11 + 12)

Faithful is all He asks of us.

This conversation is a matter of faith and wealth. Not wealth and wisdom.

Revelation 3:13-22: Letter to Laodicea

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The wording used literally exposes the way the people in this city made money as worthless – go back to 17 – though they were bankers, he says they're poor. And even though they had medical eye salve to help people's sight, he calls them blind. Though they manufactured wool for clothes, he describes them as naked.

Our achievements and possessions and even our ability to earn income are valueless in eternity.

Valueless in eternity.

Revelation 18:14

All wealth will be destroyed - one hour.

Imagine how much time, energy and thought process and lives are literally going to come up meaningless in one hour.

Money messes with our motives.

5 strategies for funding a non-profit

Strategy #1: Encouraging people to send their tithe to your organization

Believe wholeheartedly that the local church is God's Plan A

Strategy #2: Have a "board" that are really donors in disguise.

I'm not going to say that we don't need donors, but we need advisors.

Strategy #3: Every team member raises their own support.

Gives every team member two jobs – would be very hard not to fall into overwork

Turnover is higher because it's hard to sustain two jobs

Strategy #4: Charging for access to your "audience"

Caution: it would be easy to check off the task when someone gets access to your audience and forget ministry is the point.

Limit who you would do ministry with to who could afford to do ministry with you instead of doing ministry with who aligns with your mission.

Strategy #5: Where we (SWHW) land: Giving the mission away for free in various ways, charging those who want access to more.

We constantly juggle doing ministry freely with doing ministry fairly – and while it's better than the other struggles, it still steals energy from the ministry work

We are slow to give and quick to take.

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“Why don’t you trust Me more?”

We need your support.

I want to be even more generous with this ministry God has called us to do.

I want to give less energy to what’s fair.

I want to be more blown away by God’s faithfulness.

I want my faith to grow.

Principle #3: Biblical financial advice will grow your faith more than your bank account. At the end of the day, remember the only growth that lasts: growing your faith. All we do should aim to grow our faith - including how we handle our finances. Pick the financial strategy that grows your faith.

a note from Michelle:

Thank you. I'm so grateful this community is a safe place where I can be honest about where I'm struggling and how God is challenging me. If you couldn't be with us live, I really pray you'll get a chance to watch this week's workshop. [Don't forget if you have any questions about anything shared, you can email me directly at michelle@sheworkshisway.com.] If God prompts your heart to give to SWHW as a one-time or repeat donor now or in the future, you can give safely and securely at <http://sheworkshisway.com/donate>. Honored, humbled and blessed to be in this mission with you.