



## Sermon Notes from 10 February

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**Why Money Matters** (Luk 12:34, Ps 62:10, Ecc 5:10, Heb 13:5, Pro 23:4, Pro 28:2, Deut 15:10, Pro 3:9-10, Acts 20:35) by Rev Guna Raman

It is not unspiritual to be thinking or being concerned about money. Money was one of Jesus' favorite topics and He talks about it boldly. The teaching of money is divided into 2 categories in scripture: the **dangers** and **blessings** of money. The interaction with money is what sets the direction in your life. It either blesses you or curses you. *What it really takes for you to walk down the path of righteousness when it comes to money is God's grace.*

Four Attitudes That Explain The Tendency We Have To Spend Selfishly On Ourselves:

**#1 Ingratitude** - A grateful person is well aware that he deserves nothing. The ungrateful person is the opposite. He feels entitled to have more and is never satisfied.

**#2 Need** - While most of us tell ourselves we need something, we actually don't. We have become very skilled at loading our desires into the category of 'need'. As a result, spending looks justified.

**#3 Discontentment** - When you are ungrateful and have a mis-diagnosed sense of 'need', you become discontented. *Contentment is not a money, possession or status problem - it is a heart problem.*

**#4 Envy** - Having ingratitude, a strong desire to 'need' and discontentment would lead you compare with others. Envy causes you to become self-oriented and foolish with the use of your money. *The problem with money is not that we have too little or too much - they are heart problems.*

How Can Money Be Dangerous?

**1) Money can cause you to forget God** - There is a tendency for your dependency on God to decrease with more money you have. Your lifestyle changes from God-glorifying to self-glorifying.

**2) Money can change the way you think about you** - Money either stimulates you to God or towards yourself. It can move you to expect and demand from life what you should not expect or deserve.

**3) Money can cause you to look down on others** - As money redefines your identity, it also changes the way you look at others. It stimulates the prideful prejudice that lurks in the heart of every sinner.

**4) Money can weaken your resolve to fight temptation** - Money exposes the wickedness of your heart. If there's anything that can help you fight temptations, it is God's grace.

**5) Money can finance your allegiance to the kingdom of self** - You are using your funds to worship money or worship God.

How Can Money Be A Blessing?

**1) Money is a window on the goodness of God** - Every good thing in your life is the result of the loving kindness of God (Jas 1:17). *Money is meant to be an arrow pointing us towards the goodness and faithfulness of God.*

**2) Money is a window on what rules your heart** - Money exposes who rules your heart: God or anything else.

**3) Money is a window on the dangers of the fallen world** - Money reveals to you that satisfaction **cannot** be found outside of The Creator: God.

**4) Money is the means of us responding to the needs of others** - Giving cannot fluctuate with circumstances or feelings. *God hasn't provided for us simply to provide for us, but in providing for us, He has enabled us to be a means of His provision for others.* Discipline yourself to become habitual givers!

**5) Money can connect you to the work of the bigger kingdom** - Your use of money determines your allegiance to the kingdom of God or of yourself. If nothing is more important to you than your salvation, then nothing is more important to you than fueling the work of redemption with your money.

Giving protects us from ourselves and brings God back into the center of our lives (Acts 20:35).