

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

The Power of Money – Ian France –7.6.2026

Scripture

Isaiah 55:1-2; Matthew 6:19-21, 24

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

Isaiah 55:1-2

God gives His people an invitation through His prophet Isaiah, who calls people to listen to him with a word that is only used on this occasion in Scripture. 'Ho!' In its brevity it prefaces the importance of the announcement he is about to make on God's behalf.

He issues an invitation to everyone, especially to those who are thirsty, for it is the people who long for God who will come to the waters He offers. Anyone who is not interested in finding God will not come at that time. In a world where people are used to buying and selling, there is even more for them in this offer for this water, this wine, this milk is available free of charge. Their money will do them no good for they do not have to pay. God invites them to ask themselves why they spend money on things that bring them no satisfaction.

So, God offers people all they need – but they still have a part to play. Firstly, they must listen carefully. They will never be satisfied if they don't. Secondly, they must eat what is good. Isaiah speaks of spiritual meals here, and it requires discernment on the part of those who eat as to what spiritual sustenance is being offered. They must discern whether what they are hearing is spiritually sound. Thirdly, they must allow their souls to delight in the generosity of God's invitation. Their response to what they hear will determine their relationship with Him.

Matthew 6:19-21

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches about money and people's relationship with it. He begins this passage by telling His listeners that earthly treasure is temporary and will fade away, whilst heavenly treasure is eternal. There is no ultimate value in treasure gained here on earth so it is a waste of time to dedicate one's life to gaining more and more. It is not wrong to possess earthly treasure, but it is wrong to collect it purely for personal use. However, laying up heavenly treasure gives people the immediate satisfaction that comes of being a giver, and

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ultimate joy in heaven. Material treasure can be used during a person's lifetime to bless others and result in future blessings for the giver in eternity. Whilst no one can take earthly treasure with them when they die, the good they do for the kingdom of God through sharing their possessions on earth during their lifetime has eternal results. Jesus concluded that a person can only have their treasure, and consequently their heart, in one place at one time – either storing up treasure on earth or in heaven.

Matthew 6:24

Jesus is not so concerned with a person's wealth as He is with their loyalty. He was thinking about the relationship between a master and a slave as He spoke of these things. It was impossible for a slave to serve two masters. If a person was loyal to one master, they would be disloyal to the other for each master claimed the slave as his own property.

There is some confusion as to the origin of the word mammon, but it is clear it refers to material possessions or things people want. Jesus is talking about the heart here. Whether people are wealthy or poor in the world's eyes, many may say they love God but the way they chase after material wealth is an indication they do not.

Icebreaker:

What was the first thing you saved up for (or splurged on) with your first pay check? How did it make you feel when you managed to buy it? Is it still important to you now?

Application

- How do you feel talking about money? What was your reaction to the comment that we hear 4000-10000 ads a day by various means? What do those ads do to you? Do they make you angry, or do they make you want whatever is being advertised?
- What are you working towards acquiring at the moment? Are you having to put money aside for this? What will it mean to you when you make the purchase. (Jesus does not say it is wrong to acquire possessions, just that they should not be the source of our identity)
- *We need to find our identity in Jesus Christ:* On a scale of 1-10 (with one being low and ten being high) how would you say this applies to your life at this time? When you think of yourself as God's precious possession, does that change your understanding of where you find your identity? How?

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- *Practice gratitude:* How do you do this? Would you say you are a grateful person or one who struggles to find good in life? Whether you are wealthy or poor in the world's eyes, how do you feel about your possessions? What would you need to earn to be satisfied? How do you feel about cultivating gratitude?
- *Compare down instead of up:* What does 'keeping up with the Joneses' mean to you? Do you think others look at you and see you and your lifestyle as their goal – could you be the Joneses to them? How does that idea make you feel? Does that change the way you see your life, your possessions – and even your relationship with Jesus?
- *We live in a right relationship with God and with money when we give generously:* It is not easy to speak of our own generosity – sometimes we want to keep it between ourselves and God. So, without saying anything about how you have been generous, share with the group what generosity means to you. Both material gifts given and received. Would you like to be a more generous person? How could you do that?
- How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

Prayer

Pray for one another in regard to the issues that have been raised during your discussion time, and in regard to other needs of the group.

Service

During this coming week, make a note of how you spend your money and what it means to you.

Bibliography

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/isaiah-55/>
<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/matthew-6/>



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