

# Life Group Notes

## Lessons in Money

'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'  
Luke 12:34

### To begin

- What is your biggest temptation to spend?
- Of all your treasured possessions, which would you least want to lose?

### Read Luke 12:13-34

### Questions for discussion

1. 'The love of money is the root of all evil' (1 Timothy 6:10). What is the problem with loving money? From what does loving money distract us?
2. Jesus says, 'Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.' Is our society 'buying' in to the idea that it does? How are Christians responding?
3. Read Luke 16:13. Why can't we serve God and money?
4. In what is the rich fool trusting? What are the downsides of doing this?
5. In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, John Wesley the founder of Methodism, preached a sermon entitled 'The Use of Money.' In summary, he said that we should earn all we can, save all we can and give all we can. What advantages and disadvantages can you think of to earning all we can? (NB Wesley amplified the point, saying, 'We ought to gain all we can but this it is certain we ought not to do; we ought not to gain money at the expense of life, nor at the expense of health.')
6. How might we save all we can? Did the rich fool save or hoard? What's the difference?
7. We often talk of saving money on our shopping and of getting a bargain! What are the limits for you of saving money in this way?
8. The emphasis of our reading is that we can trust God to provide what we need. How should that shape our attitude towards money? How might it affect what we give to God's work?

### Going deeper!

Older versions of the Bible translate Luke 16:13, 'Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.' Mammon has an Arabic origin and means 'confidence.' In what or in whom should we put our confidence?

### In summary

How might we give all we can? In his sermon, Tim suggested that we need to:

- Realise that God is enough. Don't worry that you will one day need the money that you are giving away. God is enough.

- Seek his Kingdom, and we will be given the things we need (Luke 12:31).
- Invest in heaven. 'The way you store up treasure in heaven is by investing in people getting there' (Rick Warren).

Do we want to store up riches on earth or treasure in heaven?

'Do all the good you can,  
by all the means you can,  
in all the ways you can,  
in all the places you can,  
at all the times you can,  
to all the people you can,  
as long as ever you can.'

John Wesley

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