

Introduction:

"He who has God and \_\_\_\_\_ has no more than he who has God \_\_\_\_\_." C.S. Lewis

"Jesus Christ said more about \_\_\_\_\_ than about any other single thing because, when it comes to man's real nature, money is of first importance. Money is an exact index of a man's true \_\_\_\_\_. All through scripture there is an intimate correlation between a man's character and how he handles his money." Richard Halverson

Eighty percent of divorced folks say that \_\_\_\_\_ played a major role in ending their marriage.

I. The Photo Album

A. Zacchaeus: A Portrait of \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 19:8-9

*But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

Jesus judged Zacchaeus' salvation based on his eagerness to part with his money for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and for the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.

Lesson: It is painfully obvious that God considers what we do with our money his \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Rich Young Ruler: A Portrait of \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 19:21

*Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

"None of us can \_\_\_\_\_ the true God unless in the process we \_\_\_\_\_ our other gods." Randy Alcorn

If Christ is not Lord over our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, he is not Lord.

Jesus gauged Zacchaeus' spiritual condition by his \_\_\_\_\_ to part with his \_\_\_\_\_ money; he gauged the rich young ruler's spiritual condition by \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ to part with his money.

Lesson: Our handling of money is a litmus test of our true \_\_\_\_\_.

C. John the Baptist: A Portrait of True \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 3:7-14

*John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup>"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup>John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. <sup>14</sup>Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."*

Lesson: True spirituality is seen in:

\_\_\_\_\_ to those in need

\_\_\_\_\_ in our jobs

\_\_\_\_\_ with our current financial situation

D. Jerusalem Community Church: A Portrait of \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:44-45

*All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.*

The depth of spiritual transformation in the lives of early Christians was most clearly seen in their willingness to

\_\_\_\_\_ their money  
and possessions to meet each other's needs.

Lesson: Radical \_\_\_\_\_ sets  
the table for radical \_\_\_\_\_.

#### E. Ephesus Community Church: A Portrait of \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 19:18-20

*Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup>A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. <sup>20</sup>In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.*

The Christians at \_\_\_\_\_ burned up over 6  
million dollars in heretical literature.

Lesson: Conversion is a supernatural  
\_\_\_\_\_ that  
produces a supernatural  
\_\_\_\_\_.

#### F. Wise Widow / Foolish Man: A Portrait of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 21:1-4; 12:14-  
\_\_\_\_\_)

Christ viewed the woman's decision as eternally  
\_\_\_\_\_, while he viewed the rich man's decision as  
eternally \_\_\_\_\_.

Lesson: The difference between financial wisdom and  
financial foolishness is  
\_\_\_\_\_.

#### II. Questions from the Photo album

If Jesus used your handling of finances as material for a parable,  
what kind of lesson would it be?

What would a first century Christian think of our spiritual condition by  
viewing our use of money and possessions?

You will manage a fortune in your lifetime. Where will it go?

Can we really call ourselves Christ followers and not have our finances  
affected? (Mark 8:34)

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Stewardship: Week 3  
Snapshots of \$