

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."*⁹ 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? ⁸Produce 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. ⁹The 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." ¹⁰"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. ¹¹John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" ¹³"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. ¹⁴Then 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. ⁴⁵Selling 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. ¹⁹A 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. ²⁰In 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 \$