



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Lost in Translation – Part 2

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Main Idea – Money is a good thing. Money is a tool God has given us to accomplish His work. However, if we love money we will assuredly find ourselves alienated from God. Money will be your master if you do not first master it.

Forgetting the words

- It is common to forget the words of a song. That happens because we might not correctly hear what is being sung. Or, over time, we can unknowingly alter a word here or there.
- To not know the correct words of a song is probably okay most of the time.
- However, to incorrectly quote Scripture is not okay.

Is money really the root of all evil?

- A saying that is not found in the Bible, but is commonly quoted as if it were, is “Money is the root of all evil.”
- The correct quote is from **1 Timothy 6:6-10 - Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For *the love of money* is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (NKJV)**
- Money itself is not evil. But, if you love money, evil things will develop and happen from that love.
- * It is important to note that the original letter from Paul likely did not contain the words “kinds of”. Those English words were added to some later translations to help make the point.

Philargyria

- The Greek word “philargyria” is the word that has been translated into English as the “love of money” phrase. It can be understood as an insatiable desire to gain money and wealth as its own end; avarice; to hoard and hang onto when the money itself is the purpose.
- An important distinction is that “philargyria” does not involve pure covetousness – which is trying to acquire something you don’t have. Rather, the “love of

money” also involves the practice of hoarding and holding onto what you have.

God calls money good

- **Genesis 2: 8-12** – The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. The first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. *And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. (NKJV)*
- Money is a good thing. God put it here to be used as a way to do commerce and business among ourselves. Money should be used to steward the things over which we have been given responsibility.

What’s wrong with loving money?

1. If you love money, you will use it for selfish pursuits.
 - a. **Mark 10: 17-27** - As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good. But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.’ ” “Teacher,” the man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.” Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!” The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.” (NLT)

- b. The young man in that story looked religious; he kept many of the commandments, but chose to ignore those that dealt with his personal relationship with God.
 - c. His affections for his money had grown so that he did not really want a personal relationship with God.
 - d. Jesus asked him to adjust his affections, but he was not able to do so.
2. If you love money, it will direct your affections away from God.
- a. **Matthew 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (NLT)**
 - b. Money is a master. It is the one thing this side of eternity that can challenge your relationship with God. It has the potential to influence every area of your life.
 - c. Money is spiritual because using it involves trust. Do you trust it, or God, to accomplish what needs to be done?
 - d. We need to have money, but it should not have us.
 - e. Money is simply a tool for us to use.
 - f. Tithing is one mechanism God gives us to keep straight our priorities.
3. If you love money, it will blind you to the truth
- a. **Matthew 26: 14-15 - Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. (NKJV)**
 - b. Judas' love of money was so strong he was not able to recognize Jesus for whom He was. Similarly, love of money will blind you to the truth about Jesus.
 - c. **2 Timothy 3: 1-5 - But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, *lovers of money*, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! (NKJV)**
 - d. Those who love money will see it as their savior, not Jesus. It is easy to think if you had more money your problems would be solved. Problems are solved through faith and a relationship with God, not money.

God gives us power to create wealth

- **Deuteronomy 8:18 – And you shall remember the Lord your God, *for it is He who gives you power to get wealth*, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is to this day.**

- The acquisition of resources is not for you, but for God’s work on the planet. When you get money, use it to accomplish the things God is doing.
- The pursuit to make money is morally okay. But, don’t make money to spend it on yourself.
- The more effort you spend on developing your personal gifts, the more God will bless you with resources.

Wealth and redemption go hand-in-hand

- **Exodus 12: 35-36** - Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.
- Like the old Israelites, God saved you so you can make a difference.
- Let your affections be for God. Rule your money, don’t let your money rule you.

Reflective Questions for Lost in Translation – Part 2

1. Money is a thing; it can be used for either good or evil. Why does the love of money lead to evil, but never to good?
2. As Pastor Ricky asked in his message, is there any one thing (such as a love of money) that is preventing you from having a more intimate relationship with God? If so, what steps do you need to take to focus your affections away from that thing, and toward God?
3. Do you have a tendency to try to hoard things? Might that be a form of “the love of money”? Are you able to identify why you have the desire to gather and hoard? What are some steps you can take to free yourself from the bondage of those possessions?
4. Do you agree, or disagree, with the idea that God would like you to have a lot of money but first needs to know He can trust you with what you’d do with it?