

Faith and Materialism

Introduction

We live in a time where the greatest wealth transfer in history is happening. Some analysts say anywhere between 84 to 100 trillion dollars in assets will be inherited in the next 20 years. We have a lot of material and financial resources.

The question is: what does our faith have to say about what we do with all that we have? Jesus spoke about this often. Not because God needs your money, it all belongs to him anyway. Rather, he knows that nothing has the power to become an idol in our lives like our material possessions. The love of money is called greed. Greed is the root of all kinds of evil in this world.

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” 1 Timothy 6:10

In our texts today from Exodus and Luke, we see that our generosity is not only the fuel for God’s work in the world, but also a central matter of our heart and relationship to God. God desires to be first in all aspects of our lives, including our finances. Jesus asks us to place our faith and trust in him, not seeking first our own comfort and security, but seeking first his kingdom and his righteousness.

Read Your Bible

- **Exodus 36:1-7**
- **Luke 12:13-21**

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. What are some of the ways greed is the root of all kinds of evil in this world?
2. Moses has to send out a decree to stop giving, because people are being so generous there is more than they know what to do with. What could we do as a church with that type of radical generosity?
3. How do our resources fuel kingdom work?
4. Is generosity important? Why or why not?
5. Why is generosity a matter of the heart?
6. It has been said, the god of this age is comfort. Why does seeking worldly security and comfort have such a pull on our lives?
7. How do we learn to trust God with all things, including our material possessions and finances?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Lord, help us to be in a right relationship with our stuff by being in a right relationship with you. Give us your grace for each moment to trust you with our today and our tomorrow. As you are generous, inspire us and call us to be generous in all things. In Jesus' name. Amen.