

MONEY MATTERS, BUT NOT SO MUCH

Bring it on

MONDAY

Groovy, it's

TUESDAY

Be ...

different

So, here's the story ...

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good — except God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not give false testimony; you shall not defraud; honor your father and mother.'"

"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept (obeyed) since I was a boy."

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Peter said, "We have left everything to follow you."

"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields — along with persecutions — and in the age to come eternal life.

But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Read the story for yourself in Mark 10:17-31

Halfway there
WEDNESDAY

A.M.

Noon

P.M.

Eve

You wanna be...

content

satisfied; untroubled;
fulfilled; cheerful;
delighted; at ease

or

insecure

unsure; doubtful;
apprehensive; worried;
ill at ease; self-conscious

‘But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.’

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Make a difference ...

Step up:

When you have a little something extra, share it with someone who doesn't have as much (or anything at all).

Take it up a notch:

Save up or start a fund to be able to do something special for those in need, like giving out food for a holiday, or gifts for certain celebrations. Maybe necessities for the homeless in your community.

Take it to God

God knows what your needs are (Matthew 6:8).
Don't get all ceremonial. Be real with Him.

Poll your friends ...

Do you think having lots of money makes you a better person?

Yes

No

Jesus did lots of miracles while He was on the earth. Read about one of them here:

Matthew 17:24-27

Throw your hands up
THURSDAY

A.M.

Noon

P.M.

Eve



FRIDAY

Finale

**Trust in God;
all others must
take a back seat**

In our story this week, Jesus was not telling His apostles that rich people can't make it into Heaven. He was saying that it can be hard. Wealth carries with it a strong sense of security — one that people can easily become dependent or reliant upon, instead of God.

Trusting in what money can do for you — though it often seems to fit a need — is still a flawed hope.

Things can change in a heartbeat. I live in Oklahoma, home of tornado alley. I personally know people who have actually lost everything they had to a catastrophic event.

Putting your trust in any-

thing other than the living God — the Creator of the universe — is going to let you down eventually, and likely be devastating when it does.

It just can't measure up. God has an answer for every single problem. What's even better is, He's not surprised by anything that pops up. He knows everything. Money isn't going to get you into Heaven.

Money is not going to make you feel loved.

Money cannot gain you true friends.

Money is good for putting a roof over your head, paying the bills, and filling your refrigerator.

Money is a also tool to help others who need it.

WEEKEND

WoodHoo!

Sat.

Sun.

Did you know?

Here are some scriptures that talk about money and good stewardship:

- 1 Corinthians 4:2
- Titus 1:7
- 1 Timothy 5:8
- Malachi 3:10
- Acts 20:35
- Colossians 3:23
- Deuteronomy 8:17-18
- Proverbs 10:4-5
- Proverbs 12:11
- Proverbs 13:11
- Proverbs 16:8
- Proverbs 21:6

So, let's wrap it up

"Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 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 6:9-10 warns.

It's not that dollar bills, coins, or debit cards pave the path to hell, but it can easily become an obsession or means of trouble.

Why?

- Everybody needs it to survive.
- Many people don't have enough of it to get by. So they want more of it.
- People fear the unknown and money can fix a lot of unexpected problems.
- With it, money can secure most things you need or want.

• Some people enjoy the power of influence or status it can offer.

Yeah, it's easy to see why it grips and drives the hearts of many.

But desires, whether they start out with good intentions or not, can spiral downward — leading you into a deep trap real quick. God warns us to not love other things more than Him. It's because those selfish motives will come right back around to lock us in a cage — every time.

Do you know anyone who just can't seem to get enough money? Nothing they do satisfies that goal? They act like Scrooge and haggle over every penny, at the same time piling it up as fast and furious as they can.

What exactly is the point of that?

Money's entire purpose is to be spent — not foolishly

on trivial or useless junk, but it's there to serve a purpose.

It's simply a common denominator between humans, so we don't have to go back to the days of trading and bartering.

I personally like being able to go to the grocery store to get things I need, rather than hunting all over creation to find someone who's got chickens or farms peanuts. (I love peanut butter, as do my doggos.) And Heaven help us if there's no one within 100 miles who grows all the stuff to trade for some tacos. You get my point. Money was never intended to become a thing to hoard. Having what you need and being able to care for your family is one thing; stockpiling all the wealth in town so you can go around feeling like a bigshot is something else entirely.



*Vicky's
view*

We are to be good stewards (managers) of lots of things — money included.

As with most things, it's going to take some practice, some painful lessons and experiences because of errors now and then, and some real self discipline to be a good steward.

God wants us to be responsible with the things He means to be used for His purpose. We can't go running around spending it all to buy up frivolous things.

On the other extreme, He doesn't want us locking it down so tight it no longer serves any useful purpose outside of sitting in a vault.

Got money and talent?

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

Ponder this:

Do you think money is the answer to all your problems?

Time to take charge of your life:

(Fill in the blank ...)

has been bugging me lately, bringing me down. What can I do to change that? Do I need help from someone else? Who?

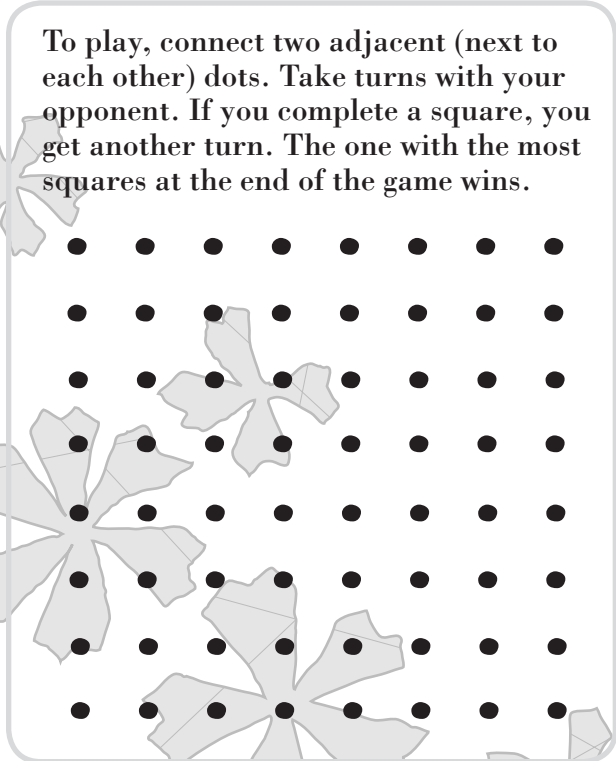
Something good that happened this week was:

Let's read:

Mark 10:17-31

Claiming the promised land

To play, connect two adjacent (next to each other) dots. Take turns with your opponent. If you complete a square, you get another turn. The one with the most squares at the end of the game wins.



Matthew 7:7

answer on page 321

S	T	N	E	M	D	N	A	M	M	O	C
H	E	A	V	E	N	D	Y	O	B	S	L
L	A	C	K	L	E	T	D	S	E	I	A
R	C	S	I	V	I	G	E	H	F	N	N
E	H	V	E	R	N	R	C	E	J	S	R
V	E	I	E	I	V	I	R	E	T	N	E
I	R	H	K	E	R	Y	O	U	T	H	T
G	N	W	D	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E
I	P	O	S	S	E	S	S	I	O	N	S

TEACHER
INHERIT
ETERNAL
LIFE
COMMANDMENTS
OBSERVED

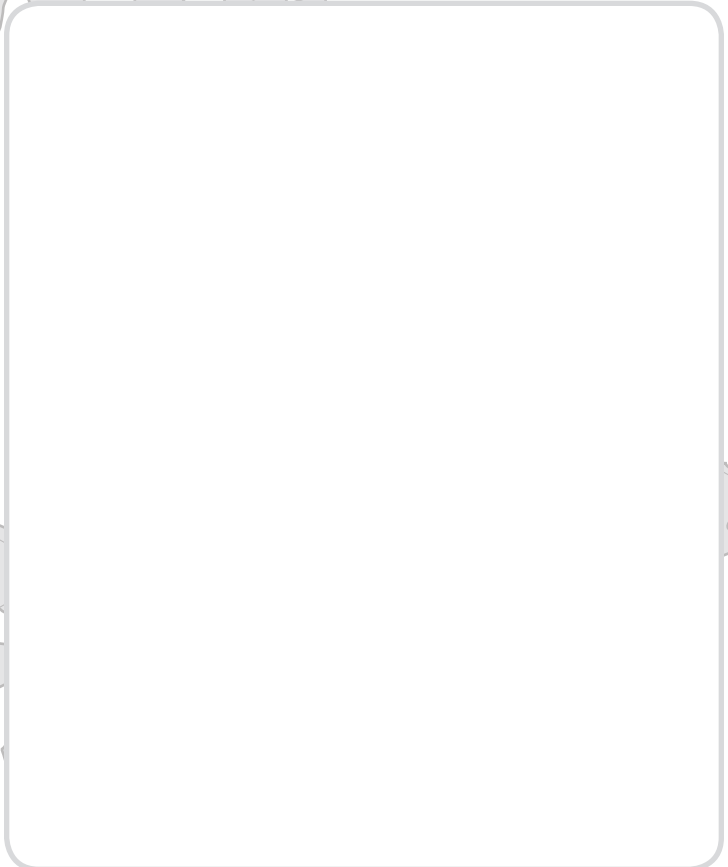
YOUTH
LACK
SIN
GIVE
EVIL
TREASURE

HEAVEN
GRIEVED
POSSESSIONS
RICHES
KINGDOM
ENTER

You are ...

blessed

Doodle Box

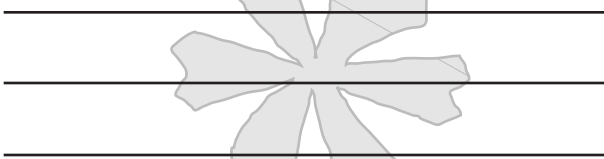


Wandering the wilderness

Make your way along the words to make a sentence. Your journey will form one single path. You can only go north, south, east, or west and the path must never cross over itself. Start at the northwest corner and finish at the southeast corner.



T E L E L F
F R L S R H
U E Y O U O
L D N O W W
Y O U A R E



answer on page 337

Make a list of all the things you can do without money: