

International Conversation Cafe

New Testament: Money, Money, Money, Matthew 7

It is hard to overestimate how important money is in our lives. We believe money buys an education, which then secures a good job, which ensures a prosperous future for our families. But is this always true? What kinds of things can go wrong in the progression of education---job---prosperity? Money is one of those things, which can easily evaporate.

Can you tell about someone who lost a lot of money?

Jesus speaks of the temporary nature of money.

Matthew 7

¹⁹ "Do not put away riches for yourselves on earth. Moths and rust can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them. ²⁰ Instead, put away riches for yourselves in heaven. There, moths and rust do not destroy them. There, thieves do not break in and steal them. ²¹ Your heart will be where your riches are.

Name the three ways Jesus says we lose money.

How do you think we put riches for ourselves in heaven?

What do you think it means, "Your heart will be where your riches are?" Can you give an example?

Jesus understands how money easily means more to us than God. In fact, money becomes a god.

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters at the same time. He will hate one of them and love the other. Or he will be faithful to one and dislike the other. You can't serve God and Money at the same time.

Do you think that is a true statement about serving God and money? Why or why not?

Jesus understood how much we need money to live. He knew how much worry money causes.

Do Not Worry

Matthew 7

²⁵ "I tell you, do not worry. Don't worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And don't worry about your body and what you will wear. Isn't there more to life than eating? Aren't there more important things for the body than clothes?"

²⁶ "Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are?"

²⁷ "Can you add even one hour to your life by worrying?"

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the wild flowers grow. They don't work or make clothing. ²⁹ But here is what I tell you. Not even Solomon in all of his glory was dressed like one of those flowers.

³⁰ "If that is how God dresses the wild grass, won't he dress you even better? After all, the grass is here only today. Tomorrow it is thrown into the fire. Your faith is so small!"

³¹ "So don't worry. Don't say, 'What will we eat?' Or, 'What will we drink?' Or, 'What will we wear?' ³² People who are ungodly run after all of those things. Your Father who is in heaven knows that you need them.

³³ "But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you.

³⁴ "So don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

In verse 25, what do most people worry about? What else do we worry about?

Jesus gives three reasons not to worry. What are they? (v. 26-30)

What is God's promise in v. 33?

What words of Jesus gives you hope?

