

Take Charge: Part 2- Who's the Boss?  
Luke 16:13 and Matthew 6:33

**I. ME**

- A. Different this week/Safer for me
- B. Welcome/Cards/Online
- C. Money is awesome.
  - 1. Tool that can do so much good.
  - 2. Can be used to add purpose to your life.

**II. WE**

- A. But **money promises more than it can deliver**
  - 1. "I'll make your wildest dreams come true... but you're gonna need just a little bit more..."
  - 2. "Oh yeah I meant a little more than that."
- 3. Me and houses-** Just need so much money for the house I want... well maybe a bit more.
- 4. When we think money and possessions will fulfill us... it can become an appetite.
- 5. We end up chasing a fantasy that will never happen... there will never be enough money... we will never satisfy that appetite.
- 6. Fact: **There will never be enough money to give you a life of purpose.**
- 7. And if we aren't careful we can waste our lives trying to spend/hoard our way to fulfillment
- 8. And then you are no longer using your money... your money is using you.
- 9. It is creating greater and greater appetites that you can't control.
- 10. It has a power over you.

- B. What we have to realize is that money is a much better tool than boss.
  - 1. **PT Barnum- Money is a terrible master but an excellent servant.**
  - 2. Our money will do whatever we tell it to do...
  - 3. Go wherever we tell it to go...
  - 4. But we have to be willing to take charge.
  - 5. B/c either it will be in charge of us or we will be in charge of it.
  - 6. If we want to have a life of purpose we need to have control over those appetites... Paul calls it self-control.

**C. Galatians 5:16**

- 1. Walk by the Spirit
- 2. Live in such a way that when God nudges your conscience... you pay attention to the tension.
- 3. When you begin to follow Jesus... the spirit of God comes to reside inside of you and starts transforming you from the inside out.
- 4. Affects every area of your life.
- 5. It's something we can fight against or work with
- 6. And Paul says the things that are proof of that transformation... the results... the things we can either work with or fight against are...

**D. Galatians 5:22-23**

- 1. Self-control.
- 2. Having control over our appetites.
- 3. Control to say no when we should and yes when we should.

**4. In all areas of our life...**

E. Why? B/c God loves you and is for you and wants you to have a life of fulfillment, purpose, and happiness.

**F. And that is why Jesus talked about money so much.**

1. He knew the power it could have over us.
2. Knew that the true test of who we are is what we do with our money
3. It is always fighting for control.
4. And if we don't use self-control, our money will take over and take charge.

G. So, **last week** we looked at a story Jesus told where he explained how using money as tool for a purpose outside of yourself can add purpose to your life.

**1. That the purpose of money is to use it for a purpose that isn't you.**

H. As he was wrapping up that teaching he said something very interesting...

1. And to be honest a little uncomfortable... b/c there's no wiggle room.
2. There's no, "Well it sounds like he's saying that but he's actually just saying this."
3. There's no way to soften it.
4. That's why I pre-recorded this message...

**III. GOD**

**A. Luke 16:13a**

1. **Master**- Person to whom one belongs/ owner who has control over a person = LORD

**B. Luke 16:13b**

1. You cannot serve both God and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Normally we would think Devil, or self, or the world, or sin...
3. Nobody would put the word money there.
4. Jesus is saying no... you can't serve God and serve money at the same time...
5. You can't chase after God and try to fulfill your ever increasing appetites at the same time.
6. It's one or the other.
7. You can't give God control AND be controlled by money.

**C. Jesus saw money and the pursuit of wealth as the number one competitor for our hearts... our allegiance.**

1. "Oh I'm not controlled by money... I just like to have nice things."
2. Or "I'm not controlled by money... I don't even have enough to have it control me."
3. What are your biggest concerns?
4. Your stuff? Having enough money? Or God?
5. Someone scratches your car/guitar/etc... how do you react?
  - a. Care more about that possession or the person who bears the image of your Heavenly Father?

6. Focused more on providing for your family than showing them how much you love them?
  - a. What's your weekly schedule say?
- D. There's nothing wrong with having things.
  1. There's nothing wrong with working hard to provide for your family...
  2. But when these become our main concern... our chief concern... our Controlling Concern... we have become slaves to money and its pursuit.
  3. What has your trust? What has your heart?
- E. **JF-** Why is it so much easier to trust Jesus with your sin, ultimate eternal fate, our health, hopes and dreams and sorrows... than it is to trust him with your money?
  1. Isn't that weird?
- F. Here's what Jesus is saying...
  1. Not saying it to get money... never asked for any
  2. Saying it b/c he loves you and cares about you
  3. **If you haven't given God control of what you have, you haven't actually given him control.**
  4. "You can have all of me... just not my money/stuff."
  5. Take my life, my family, my eternity... just leave my money alone."
  6. "I give you everything I have... 'ish'."

#### IV. YOU

- A. So what so we do about this?
  1. How do we resolve this tension... this struggle between masters?
  2. Jesus made it very simple... **SELF-CONTROL**
  3. It's all about choosing our priorities.

#### B. Matthew 6:33

1. Seek first- yes it's ok to make and have and use money
2. But make your number one, governing/ controlling/ guiding priority... the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

#### C. Kingdom of God

1. The rule of God here on earth... His love transforming the hearts and lives of the people he loves.
2. Heaven meeting earth and breaking through our regular lives
3. To seek his kingdom is to participate in what God is doing.
4. Your purpose in life is to bring the love of God to the people he is pursuing.
5. Your purpose is God's purpose... the purpose of your life... the purpose of your stuff... is to be used for his purpose.
6. What can be more fulfilling than a life whose purpose is to bring the love of God to as many people as possible with the limited amount of time and opportunity we have here?

D. **His righteousness...**

1. You love what he loves. You see how he sees.
2. What does he love? People.
3. What is his priority? People.
4. **To seek first his kingdom and righteousness is to have People be your priority...** to use everything you are and have as a means to love people...
5. When it comes to money... it means using your money on purpose as a tool to show God's love to the people he loves.

E. HOW?

1. **Purposely choose your priority**

2. Usual-
  - a. **1. Live**
  - b. **2. Save**
  - c. **3. Give**
3. Who's first in this plan?
  - a. Rarely get down to 2 and almost never 3... b/c you end up living in ways you WANT not NEED.
  - b. And at the end of your life you realize you've traded your purpose for a purchase... with nothing to show for it.
4. Choose your priority
  - a. **1. Give**
  - b. **2. Save**
  - c. **3. Live**
5. Seek first...
6. "Then everything will be added to you..." God knows what you **NEED**.

F. Practical Homework

1. **For 2 months...**

2. **Choose a percentage of your income and give it away right away.**
  - a. Choose a percentage you can feel a bit.
  - b. Give it to a charity/ nonprofit you are passionate about
3. **Pay attention to the internal struggle** it creates.
  - a. Might mean there's a struggle for control going on?
  - b. Listen to the excuses you tell yourself

G. **Examples**

1. This is what **Crosscreek** does.
  - a. 10% every month of your donated money has gone to...
  - b. Telling people about Jesus here in Salem
  - c. Around the world
  - d. Prison Ministry
  - e. Adult Entertainment workers
  - f. Street Kids in China
  - g. Other churches in Salem who have needs
  - h. A church plant in Ohio
  - i. Bible translators in Africa
  - j. A nonprofit that supports new mothers in crisis
2. 10% goes into savings- so we will always have the funds to join God in what we see him doing
3. This is what Liz and I grew up doing...
  - a. Not always easy... for me.
4. What we are going to teach our kids to do...
5. Not B/c I want to take my kids money... I don't want money to take my kids... I want them to see their lives as part of something bigger than them.

H. Something that will impact your entire life.

1. Money back guarantee.

**V. WE**

- A. Who is going to have control?
  1. It's your choice... but you have to choose
  2. If you don't, the choice is going to be made for you... and it will eventually control you.
  3. And give you a life you don't actually want.
- B. If you are willing to give it away then it doesn't control you, right?
- C. If you can tell IT where to go... you're in charge.
- D. And listen... **JF**- Until Jesus is first in your finances... Jesus isn't first.
  1. You're a consumer not a contributor
  2. You're a taker not a giver
  3. And you're not a follower... you're a user.
- E. Whose kingdom is first... yours or God's?
  1. When God's kingdom is first lives are changed, transformed, there is purpose.
  2. When it's ours and our appetites... lives are destroyed, wasted and ultimately empty and unfulfilled.
- F. What's your ultimate priority YOU or Something bigger and better?
- G. Seek first... and it will all be added.

**H. Luke 16:13**

- I. Tell your money, "You don't own me!" and purposely choose a new priority.**