

Show Me The Money

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Look

Money is, itself, a somewhat abstract concept, especially in our modern age. On its own it has no actual value. It is only due to the group collective acceptance of its purpose that it gains value. These days, money predominantly exists as numbers in computers making it even more ephemeral.

1. Describe your own feelings about money. Do you value it? Stress about it? Hate it?
2. What sort of negative affect has money had on people you care about?
3. What keeps you from letting money control your life or define you as a person?

Book

Matthew 22:15-22

In this exchange, the Pharisees have send their disciples and the Herodians rather than confront Jesus himself. They have planned another trap for Jesus, which of course backfires. Jesus not only evades the trap, but reveals an important truth to those listening.

1. Discuss this trap that the Pharisees have set and the potential outcomes they are hoping for. What makes this such a clever trap?
2. How does Caesar's image being on the coin further deepen the discussion of tribute?
3. At the end, when it says "they were amazed", who is it that was amazed, and why does this further the failure of the Pharisees?

Took

"The things you own, end up owning you." We humans adapt our ways to work with the tools we create for ourselves, and for millennia now, we have used money. It is one of the most common experiences shared. Money itself is not evil, but it can be a dangerous tool for those not spiritually grounded.

1. Setting aside basic needs, why can money become such a power idol for some?
2. How can we as a Christian community balance the necessity of money with the potential idolatry nature it?
3. What can you do to create a more immediate reminder to yourself each day this week that you are created in the image of God and marked as Christ's own forever?