



What Would Jesus Do? ... About Money?

Recently I heard a man pose an interesting question. His question was, "What would be easier to give away - a million dollars you earned or a million dollars you won in a lottery?" I suspect the answer would be the million dollars won in a lottery. After all, you didn't earn that money and it doesn't feel like that money is really yours. The other money, it's yours, you earned it. But I am reminded that the Bible says God owns everything. Job 41:11 tells us that "everything under heaven belongs to God." I also am reminded that I am just a steward of God's property. I'm called to manage his goods and handle his money.

Jesus knew how to handle money. Jesus never allowed himself to take on a possessive attitude about money. In John 12:1-8, a woman poured out a year's wages of perfume on Jesus feet and he never rebuked her. In Mark 12:42-44, a poor widow put in her last cent into the temple treasury and went away broke and Jesus never said she acted unwisely. In fact, he commended her! It was Ralph Doudera, who pointed out that it was Jesus who allowed Judas to be the treasurer of the 12 disciples. John 12:6 reminds us that Judas was a thief and helped himself to the money from time-to- time. Interestingly, Jesus never rebuked him for this dishonesty.

My point is simple, Jesus possessed money but it didn't possess him! Jesus was committed to a life characterized by generosity. It is not a coincidence that the Sermon on the Mount contains the following words, "If someone grabs your shirt, gift-wrap your best coat and make a present of it." (From Luke 6:29 in the Message) It reminds us that the servant of the Lord is to be extraordinarily generous.

Remember whenever you let go of money in the name of the Lord, that money has the ability to bless someone else and lest you forget, it has the ability to bless you too! Let our attitude reflect the prayer of Michael Benson. "You have given so much to me, give one thing more, a generous heart."

Excerpt from Eric Woods

~NCYM Stewardship & Finance Committee



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