

# Maranatha Mirror Messages



## WE NEED MONEY!



*Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain,  
and when he sat down his disciples came to him.  
And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:*

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."*

*Matthew 5:1-5*



Thousands of people sat on the grass and listened as Jesus taught the ways of the Kingdom of God.

*When Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.*

*Matthew 7:28-29*

Transport the Sermon on the Mount into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and we are forced to include a significant appendix....

*Before dismissing the crowd Jesus held his hands high to get their attention.*

*“My friends, if you were blessed by what you heard today, and would like to see this ministry continue, please drop your loose change in the basket as you leave.*

*If you would like to receive a special blessing, just make a pledge of monthly support. Your name will be added to our list of those who can expect to receive a Special Blessing.”*



In other words,

**WE NEED MONEY!**

Fund-raising and financial appeals are a normal part of today's Christian culture. After all, our churches need money. The evangelist has to pay for air time. And if the kids are going to go on that mission trip to Mexico, they need to raise support.

Isn't money simply part of life?

Jesus never shied away from talking about money.

## Jesus and Money

When Jesus talked about money, he put it in a place far different from the place it holds in today's Christian world

Jesus expects us to be faithful to God in the way we handle money.

***"He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.***

***If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches?***

***And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?"***

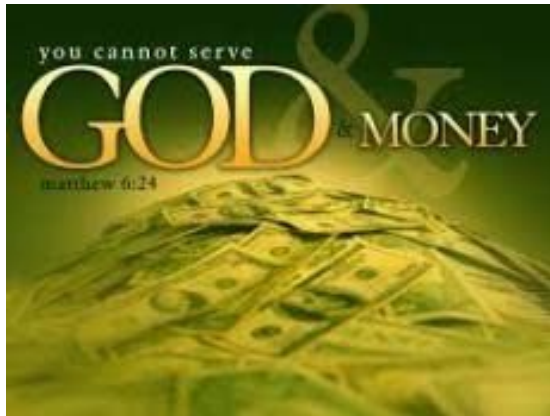
Luke 16:10-12



Jesus makes clear that the minute money becomes an obsession, we are no longer serving God.

***"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."***

Luke 16:13



Jesus and the disciples had money for food and lodging as they traveled through Galilee and Judea. They had money for needy folks as they moved through the land.

Yet they never appealed for funds.

Instead of appealing for funds, Jesus simply practiced what he preached.

*And why are you anxious about clothing?  
Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;  
they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you,  
even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*

*But if God so clothes the grass of the field,  
which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven,  
will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith?*

*Therefore do not be anxious, saying,  
'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'  
For the Gentiles seek all these things;  
and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.*

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be yours as well.*

*Matthew 6:28-33*



## **God's Provision**

Jesus promised that if we seek God's Kingdom first, all the things we need will be provided.

God will see to it.

This is how Jesus lived, how he carried on his work.

Somehow the money they needed was always there.

*Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Mag'dalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joan'na, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.*

*Luke 8:1-3*

Our Lord promises that if we seek God's Kingdom first in our personal and family life, *"all these things shall be yours as well."*

Jesus does not promise that we will be rich. Nor does he promise that there will be no lean times. But he does promise that the heavenly Father will see to it that we are cared for, whether it's a paycheck or a pension check or an assistance check, or God's mysterious stream of provision which has sustained thousands before us.

**When our churches seek the kingdom first,  
God will take care of the rest.**

Our churches preach that “God provides, as we seek his Kingdom first.” So why can't we find a way to practice what we preach, without this endless fund-raising?

If it's our kingdom, money will always be an issue.

If it's God's Kingdom, God will provide.



When money becomes an issue, it's time, not to raise funds, but to find out where we've strayed from the path.

*Lead me, Lord,  
Lead me in thy righteousness.  
Make thy way plain before my face.  
For it is thou, Lord, thou Lord only,  
That makest me dwell in safety.*



#### Prayer

Heavenly Father you are ever faithful and you know all our needs. Help us to trust in your provision, in your plan for us. Help us to be faithful and honest in little and in much. We need you more than we need financial security. Keep our hearts undivided. May you be our only master. We seek you and your Righteousness above all else. And Lord, heal our congregations of the constant need to seek money. May our religious organizations take a deep look at what we are truly seeking, what our goals truly are. Help us to stop seeing our churches and ministries as personal fiefdoms that need to prosper and grow. Open our eyes to the filth, ugliness and shame that the pursuit of money can bring to our churches and ministries. Instead of relying on meetings, programs and special effects to draw people, may people be

drawn because we are pursuing you, the Living God, in love, together. Forgive us Lord. Lead us Lord. We need you.