

Jesus' Handbook On Money

Everything the Book of Luke Says About
Money, Poverty, & Riches

Ideas for Using This Book

1. Read these verses slowly and thoughtfully.
2. Pray about them.
3. Have an open mind.
4. Work to see these topics the way Jesus sees them.
5. Consider areas where you fall short of Jesus' teaching.
6. Think of specific things you want to change so that you can live the beautiful, radical, counter-cultural life that Jesus wants for His followers.

John's Preparation for Jesus

John instructs new converts to rethink their attitude towards money and possessions

Luke 3:10-14

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "**Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.**" ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³ And he said to them, "**Collect no more than you are authorized to do.**" ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "**Do not extort money from anyone** by threats or by false accusation, and **be content with your wages.**"

Giving to Those in Need

Jesus commands giving even when we receive nothing in return

Luke 6:29-36

²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from **one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic** either. ³⁰**Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.** ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³²"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴**And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.** ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and **lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great,** and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Women helped provide for Jesus' financial needs

Luke 8:1-3

¹ Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, **who provided for them out of their means.**

One of the ways the Good Samaritan helped was financial

Luke 10:33-35

³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he **took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'**

Jesus tells us to sell our possessions and give to the needy

Luke 12:32-34

³² "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ **Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.** ³⁴ **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

Help those who cannot help you in return

Luke 14:12-14

¹² He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, **invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,** ¹⁴ **and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."**

Zacchaeus gave half of his goods to the poor as well as abundantly helping those he had previously cheated

Luke 19:1-10

¹ He entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a **chief tax collector and was rich.** ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the **half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.**" ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

God values the gift based on how much it costs us

Luke 21:1-4

¹ Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, ² and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³ And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. ⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Dangers that Wealth Poses for a Follower of Christ

Jesus pronounces blessings on the poor and woes on the rich

Luke 6:20-26

²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ **“Blessed are you who are hungry now,** for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But **woe to you who are rich,** for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ **“Woe to you who are full now,** for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Jesus warns that cares, riches, and pleasures of life can be like weeds that choke out our spiritual life

Luke 8:14

¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are **choked by the cares and riches** and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

Jesus warns against laying up treasure for self, but not being rich towards God

Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care, and **be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**” ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a **rich man produced plentifully,** ¹⁷and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸And he said, ‘I will do this: I will **tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my**

goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, **“Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”** ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and **the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’** ²¹ So is the one who **lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”**

The rich man failed to help Lazarus, so God reversed the situation after death

Luke 16:19-26

¹⁹ “There was a **rich man** who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid a **poor man** named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who **desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table.** Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The **poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,** ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you **in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.**’ ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been

fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.'

Jesus described the difficulty of riches and commanded a rich man to give his possessions to the poor

Luke 18:21-30

²¹ And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. **Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;** and come, follow me." ²³ But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was **extremely rich.** ²⁴ Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "**How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!** ²⁵ **For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.**" ²⁶ Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ But he said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." ²⁸ And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." ²⁹ And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has **left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God,** ³⁰ **who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.**"

Priorities & What We Value

Jesus explains that our souls are more important than any possession on this earth

Luke 9:25

²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he **gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?**

We must renounce what we have to be Jesus' disciple

Luke 14:31-33

³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you **who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.**

Money is something we are entrusted with by God

Luke 16:9-15

⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ “One who **is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much**, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹ If then you have **not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?** ¹² And if you have not been faithful in **that which is another's**, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ **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 money.”**

¹⁴ The Pharisees, who were **lovers of money**, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is **exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.**”

The need to pay taxes and give to God

Luke 19:25

²⁵ He said to them, “Then **render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**”

Taking Care of Our Physical Needs

Jesus tells us to pray for our daily physical needs

Luke 11:2-3

²And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³**Give us each day our daily bread,**

Jesus tells us to not be anxious about material things

Luke 12:22-31

²²And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, **what you will eat**, nor about your body, **what you will put on.** ²³For **life is more than food**, and the **body more than clothing.** ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, 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. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, **how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!** ²⁹ And **do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried.** ³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and **these things will be added to you.**

Jesus tells his disciples to bring personal money and provisions when going out to teach the gospel

Luke 22:35-38

³⁵ And he said to them, “When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?” They said, “Nothing.” ³⁶ He said to them, “But now let the one who has a **moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack.** And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷ For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors.’ For what is written about me has its fulfillment.” ³⁸ And they said, “Look, Lord, here are two swords.” And he said to them, “It is enough.”

Hypocrisy in the Use of Money

Greed is a sin that is sometimes concealed inside of even those who appear religious

Luke 11:39

³⁹And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of **greed** and wickedness.

Religious people can sometimes be careful to give, but still neglect bigger issues

Luke 11:42

⁴²"But woe to you Pharisees! For **you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God**. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

Giving is never something that should make us prideful

Luke 18:10-14

¹⁰"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank

you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I **give tithes of all that I get.**' ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Religious leaders condemned for financially harming widows

Luke 19:46-47

⁴⁶"Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, ⁴⁷who **devour widows' houses** and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

Jesus' Special Love for the Poor

Mary's prayer prophecies Jesus helping the poor

Luke 1:51-53

- ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³ he has **filled the hungry with good things,**
and the **rich he has sent away empty.**

One of the ways Jesus describes his ministry is to "proclaim good news to the poor"

Luke 4:18-19

- ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to **proclaim good news to the poor.**
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Jesus again describes part of his work as preaching to the poor

Luke 7:22-23

²² And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, **the poor have good news preached to them.** ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

God invites the poor to His banquet

Luke 14:21-23

²¹ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and **bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.**’ ²² And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ ²³ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’