



# WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

**28 FEB 2021 | How to Thrive in a Mammon Infested World | Luke 16:10-13**

Series : Abiding | Speaker : Elder Lee Ee Yang

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## WELCOME

[15 MINS]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

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## WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Blessed Assurance
  2. Worth It All
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## WORD

[45 MINS]

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand God's kingdom purpose for blessing us with wealth.
2. Learn how to avoid the trappings of wealth, to thrive in a mammon infested world.

## SERMON SUMMARY

Stewardship of money has become even more relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Money is spiritual. It can be powerfully used for kingdom purposes. But the enemy also uses money for demonic purposes. If our heart reflects God's heart, then He will give us spiritual wisdom to use money in a way that will align to His redemptive purposes for mankind.

## SERMON RECAP

Elder Ee Yang opened his sermon by sharing that stewardship of money has become even more relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Money is spiritual, and the realm of money and finance will be a major battlefield in the end times. No doubt our attitude towards money reveals our attitude towards God- if our hearts reflect God's heart, then He will give us spiritual wisdom to use money in a way that will align to His redemptive purposes for mankind.

### 1. The Purpose of Wealth

- God's financial plan for us is to have abundance for every good work ([2 Corinthians 9:8-11](#)). He gives us both bread for food, and seed to sow, so that 1) God, and not us, be glorified (2) God's work can be accomplished.
- [Luke 16:13](#) warns us about against making money our God. Mammon is not money; it is an evil spiritual force that uses money to enslave people and take them out of God's purpose and destiny for them.
- Putting money before God is idolatry ([Colossians 3:5](#)).
  - The testimony of the late Richard Teo illustrates how pervasive mammon is, especially in Singapore's society where the prevailing mindset is, "to be happy you need to be successful. And to be successful you need to be rich." But embedded in this Singapore dream is the love and desire for money that will motivate you to sell all other things in your life to acquire.
  - Mammon is so widespread that the whole economic system is infested with it. Advertisers are paying to grab our attention, to appeal to the lust of our eyes, and lust of our flesh.
  - The spirit of the age is materialism, consumerism and instant gratification. They distract us from God, and breed self-centredness, creating unhealthy soul ties with material things.

### 2. How Can We Thrive in a Mammon Infested World?

- Be Focused In Our Attitude (v 13)
  - [Luke 16:13](#)
  - Either you will hate God and love mammon, or you will love mammon and hate God. We have to choose. If we choose to serve God, then we will not be enslaved by the love for money.
- Be Devoted to God
  - God desires our total devotion.
    - In the battle of Jericho God commanded the Israelites to destroy everything. The plundered gold and silver go into God's treasury. This was actually a test of their devotion ([Joshua 7:11-12](#))
    - In hosting God's presence, we need to inspect our hearts to see if there are competing desires in our hearts that will repel the presence of God.
  - Covetousness is so hidden.
    - Is there hidden covetousness in our hearts?
    - Even Christians can be caught in the systems of this world and exchange the Divine Focus for the spirit of this age (consumerism that appeals to the covetous heart).
    - If you want to reign in life, devote yourself fully to God. Be attentive to God, shut down the voices of this world, and the voices of our secret desires ([Matthew 6:33](#))

- Live Simply
  - Is our security found in God or in our possessions?
  - The answer to financial freedom is a lifestyle of simplicity and stewardship. ([Philippians 4:11-13](#))
  - The key is for us to learn to consume less so that we may have more to share with others.
  
- Be Faithful In our Action (v 10-12)
  - Be diligent in our work
    - [Proverbs 12:27](#)
    - Poverty is not God’s financial plan for us – such teaching on [ascetism](#) is unbiblical.
    - Don’t think of taking shortcuts and try to get rich quickly. Little by little, accumulate wealth.
    - Beware of deception ([Proverbs 10:22](#)) Sometimes we are tempted to overwork or falling into “get rich quick investment schemes”. But God gives us increase and He adds no sorrow to it. The devil can offer us wealth, but there is always a catch, and it causes us sorrow.
    - Beware of debt to fund a lavish lifestyle. Money is a good servant but a terrible master.
  - Honour God with our wealth
    - [Proverbs 3:9-10](#)
    - God’s redemption plan is to see as many people reconciled with Him and entering into an eternal dwelling place of His presence which is called heaven.
    - The [Parable of the Shrewd Manager](#) in, while not commanding the manager for his dishonesty, teaches us four lessons: (1) Our money is not really ours, (2) Our money is only limited to this lifetime, (3) If we only keep our focus on temporary things, we won’t have an eternal welcome; and (4) Invest in eternal welfare of people.
  - Some ways we can honour God with our wealth
    - Helping the poor through the “gleaning” principle ([Deuteronomy 24:19-21](#)). Helping in a way that preserves their dignity, reward them for their labour.
    - Blessing the nation of Israel- that’s according to the Abrahamic Covenant.
    - Invest in taking the gospel to all the nations on earth.

### 3. Conclusion

- [Deuteronomy 8:17-19](#) - God will not withhold any good thing, including the ability to produce wealth, to confirm his covenant with us. But the heart of spiritual disciples (including the spiritual discipline of our personal finances) is to help us work out that covenantal relationship with God, such that we may receive blessings, fruitfulness, abundance, peace love and joy.
  
- Let us persevere to remove the secret desires of our heart, being on our guard against making idols out of the gifts God gives us, and instead be totally devoted to God.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. **Jesus says one cannot serve two masters – God and money ([Matthew 6:24](#); [Luke 16:13](#)). What does this mean in your life?**

#### Leaders’ Notes

This is a relate question. Jesus teaches that only one thing can hold the primary place in our lives – when that is not God, it will usurp God. Putting money before God is therefore idolatry ([Colossians 3:5](#)).

Elder Ee Yang shared that Mammon is so widespread that the whole economic system is infested with it, and we may sometimes be caught up putting our money and resources on this altar of consumerism and instant gratification, without being aware that the road it leads to is destruction. Leaders can get members to share how money exerts an influence in their lives, to acknowledge the link between what they spend their money on, and what they treasure. [Luke 12:34](#) and [Matthew 6:21](#) teach us that for where our treasure is, there our heart will also be. Our patterns in our spending will show us how some things have been given priorities, and thus inform us about what we truly treasure.

### Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Materialism still has a hold on so many of us, Christian or not, enslaving us to creature comforts. Our human nature is to be beholden to the things visible (such as money), while remaining oblivious to things of eternal value. In order to be used by God for His purpose, we need to be vigilant to avoid the trappings of Mammon – and for this, we will need spiritual wisdom.

2. Read [Deuteronomy 8:17-19](#). Am I viewing myself as a manager or trustee of what God has given me, or seeing myself as the owner of my money? Are there ways in which God would have me manage my money differently if I acknowledged my money as really being His?

### Leaders' Notes

This is a reflect question. Leaders can encourage members to have a conversation to share differences between how we may think about and use money (value system), when we are owners rather than when we are stewards. How will we identify, handle and exert control differently? What considerations will we be guided by? How can we use our wealth for the benefit of the God's kingdom? Reference may be made to several of Jesus' parables in which He had expounded on the concept of stewardship – e.g, [Luke 20:9-16](#) (workers and the vineyard), and [Luke 12:16-21](#) (abundant harvest).

It is a sobering reminder that even Christians can be caught in the systems of this world and exchange our devotion to God for the spirit of this age, which is consumerism that appeals to the covetous heart. As a result, we complicate our faith, relationships and lifestyles. We begin to get attached to things and need more and more possessions to be happy. Some of us fall into the trap of debt, to fund a lavish lifestyle, or stumble into get rich quick investment schemes due to our covetousness. Some of us may also tend towards hoarding up wealth for ourselves, being unwilling to share with those in need, or may not have a habit of regular tithing.

A right understanding of the Biblical concept of stewardship is integral to help us thrive in a Mammon-infested world. Because we belong to God, we are set free to care for what rightly belongs to God and to use these resources in appropriate ways - for Kingdom purposes. This in turn will help us to live meaningful lives with joy, happiness and purpose.

### Transition

As Christians, we know that everything we have comes from God, and is a gift. God will not withhold any good thing, including the ability to produce wealth, to confirm his covenant with us. Knowing that our money is not really ours and is only limited to this lifetime, let us be encouraged to invest it in the eternal welfare of people. (Leaders can challenge your members to reflect on how they can use their wealth for the benefit of God's kingdom – helping the less fortunate, supporting mission efforts, supporting social services, etc.)

3. The parable of the shrewd manager in [Luke 16:10-13](#) tells us how we can be faithful to the redemptive plans and purposes of God for mankind. In the parable, a manager who was about to be sacked, so he went to the people who owed his master money, and starts to give them discounts off their debt- in hope that when he needs a job, these friends will help him.

**In the same vein, what are some practical ways you can adopt daily, in your stewardship of your finance, to use worldly wealth to gain an eternal influence?**

### Leader's Notes

Elder Ee Yang shared that while the shrewd manager in [Luke 16:10-13](#) was not commended for his dishonesty, it teaches us that our money is only limited to this lifetime - if we only keep our focus on temporary things, we won't have an eternal welcome. Instead, [Luke 16:9](#) exhorts us to use worldly wealth to gain friends for ourselves, so that when it (wealth) is gone, we will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. Elder Ee Yang also shared the following practical handles which we can incorporate into our stewardship of our personal finances:

- Helping the poor through a "gleaning" principle ([Deuteronomy 24:19-21](#))
- Blessing the nation of Israel- that's according to the Abrahamic Covenant.
- Investing in taking the gospel to all the nations on earth

Leaders can challenge your members to reflect on how they can use their wealth for the benefit of God's kingdom – helping the less fortunate, supporting mission efforts, supporting social services, etc.

### Closing

Christians can become very good at making idols out of the gifts God gives us – including, and especially money. Let us be reminded that not to follow other gods (e.g. Mammon) and worship them. Instead, let us spur each other to be fully devoted to Him. Praise God that through our relationship with Him, we may receive blessings, fruitfulness, abundance, peace love and joy. May we all strive to be a people who will be welcomed into eternal dwellings, using our money to help others enter heaven.



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application
  - Pray that RiverLifers will be good stewards of their wealth
  - Pray that those who have more will use it to as a blessing to those who have less (be it for those in the church or for those outside the church)
2. COVID-19
  - Continue to pray for low/zero community cases and the recovery of the country's economy.



1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
2. **Booking of Tickets.** Booking of tickets for in-person service will open on Sundays at 2pm: <rlc.sg/tickets-eng>.
3. **Filipino Service.** Our Filipino congregation will be launching a full-fledged service in Central Singapore starting in March. Their last service in RiverLife premises was last Sunday, 28 Feb.



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;  
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."  
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

# Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

## 1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.  
Scan this QR code on the right.

**SCAN ME**



## 2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:  
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0  
Bank Code: 7171  
Branch Code: 029

