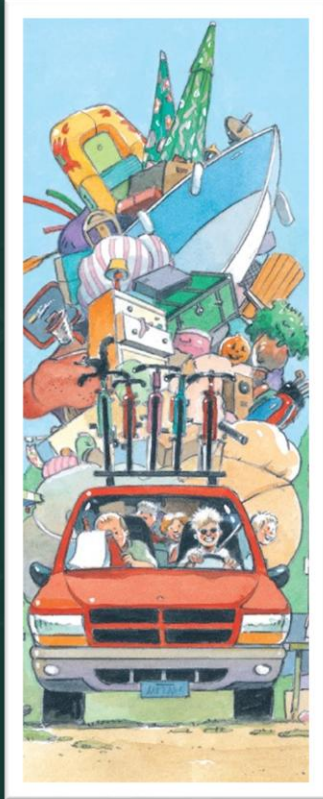




Better Than

Better Than Wealth

Tell me about...
your favorite video game



*Ecclesiastes is not godless,
but it is gospel-less*

Is money a good thing?

Wealth / money is great!

Ecclesiastes 3:13 - Everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 - Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. ²⁰ They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

Wealth / money is great!

Ecclesiastes 7:11-12 - Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing and benefits those who see the sun. Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves those who have it.

Ecclesiastes 10:19 - ... money is the answer for everything.

Wealth / money is great... except when it's not!

*¹⁰ People who love money never have enough.
They may get more and more valuable things,
but they are never happy. This also has no purpose.*

*¹¹ As a person's money becomes more,
there are more people who want a share of it.
Money does not help the people who have a lot of it.
They see it, but it quickly disappears. (Ecclesiastes 5)*

Wealth / money is great... except when it's not!

*¹² Someone who has worked hard all day will sleep well at night.
That is true even if they have not had much food to eat.
But the rich man worries about his riches.
So he does not sleep well. (Ecclesiastes 5)*

Wealth / money is great... except when it's not!

*13 ... Some people may store their riches,
but it does not help them in a time of trouble.*

*14 Something may happen in the future
that causes their money to disappear.*

After they die, no money remains for their children.

*15 When people are born, they bring nothing with them.
When they die, they take nothing away with them.*

All their hard work finally leaves them with nothing. (Ecclesiastes 5)

3 Ways to Relate to Wealth/Money

1. I serve it *(human nature)*

2. It serves me *(observable wisdom)*

3. Jesus is better *(Gospel freedom)*

Mark 10 (NIV)

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

²⁰ “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

Mark 10 (NIV)

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²² At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

Mark 10 (NIV)

²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

²⁸ Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

²⁹ “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Jesus has compassion when we're stuck.

He makes the impossible possible!

Invitation

1. Reflect on the ways you relate with wealth (money / possessions).
2. Where do you feel stuck or want more freedom to hear and follow Jesus?
3. Ask Jesus for help with that today

Teach me Your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in Your truth.

Give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear Your name.

I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify Your name forever.

-Psalm 86:11-12 (BSB)

Joy in Obedience

An Evening of Worship and
Prayer Ministry with One Another

Friday, November 14 • 7pm @ VCC

Childcare available with RSVP