

Chapter 33

Money Can't Buy Me Love

BIBLE

The next Sabbath almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of God.¹ Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw the city full of idols.²

Yahweh's word came to him, saying,³ "Little children, keep yourselves from idols."⁴ For you shall worship no other god: for Yahweh, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.⁵ He who sacrifices to any god, except to Yahweh only, shall be utterly destroyed⁶

"So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain. It takes away the life of its owners.⁷ But godliness with contentment is great gain."⁸

"Put to death therefore your members which are on the earth: sexual immorality, uncleanness, depraved passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."⁹

"No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You aren't able to serve God and mammon."¹⁰

COMMENTARY

¹ **Acts 13:44**

² **Acts 17:16**

³ **1 Kings 17:8**

⁴ **1 John 5:21** Anything that we give a higher priority to than our spiritual growth becomes an "idol." Money is an idol for many, but the Beatles can also become an idol, and so can the Bible.

⁵ **Exodus 34:14** Source energy is not jealous in the human sense, but it knows what we need to be truly happy, and if we let it, it will gently lead us into becoming the best possible version of ourselves.

⁶ **Exodus 22:20** When we sacrifice our human will to the Divine, we escape the human condition.

⁷ **Proverbs 1:19**

⁸ **1 Timothy 6:6** Contentment is the antidote for greed.

⁹ **Colossians 3:5**

¹⁰ **Luke 16:13** Paul's "She's Leaving Home" is about a dissatisfied young woman who runs away from home. She is in search of a more authentic, joyful life, the kind of life that being in harmony with the Universe (serving God) provides. In the song, which is based on a true story, her parents "gave her everything money could buy," but it wasn't enough.

“Why is there money in the hand of a fool to buy wisdom, since he has no understanding?”¹¹ A man who has riches without understanding, is like the animals that perish.”¹²

The multitudes asked him, “What then must we do?”¹³ He answered them, “He who has two coats, let him give to him who has none. He who has food, let him do likewise.”¹⁴

“My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”¹⁵ Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Most certainly I say to you, a rich man will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven with difficulty.’¹⁶

“Be free from the love of money, content with such things as you have, for he has said, ‘I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you.’¹⁷ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the faith in their greed, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”¹⁸

“Many waters can't quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man would give all the wealth of his house for love, he would be utterly scorned. Friends,¹⁹ don't love the world, neither the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the Father's love isn't in him.”²⁰

¹¹ **Proverbs 17:16** If we have money but lack spiritual wisdom, there may be trouble ahead.

¹² **Psalms 49:20**

¹³ **Luke 3:10**

¹⁴ **Luke 3:11**

¹⁵ **Philippians 4:19** When we are “in Christ Jesus” we realize how truly prosperous we are. “Baby you’re a rich man too,” the Beatles remind us in “Baby You’re A Rich Man.”

¹⁶ **Matthew 19:23** Socrates: “He who is not contented with what he has, would not be contented with what he would like to have.”

¹⁷ **Hebrews 13:5** “I don’t care too much for money, for money can’t buy me love,” Paul shares in “Can’t Buy Me Love.”

¹⁸ **1 Timothy 6:10** “You and me chasing paper, getting nowhere on our way back home,” Paul reflects in “Two of Us.” The Beatles were falling apart as Paul wrote the song, and he seems to be lamenting the fact that business and legal matters (“chasing paper”) have become more important than his partnership with John.

¹⁹ **Song of Solomon 8:7** “Fun is the one thing that money can’t buy,” Paul reminds us in “She’s Leaving Home.”

²⁰ **1 John 2:15** Erich Fromm: “Greed is a bottomless pit which exhausts the person in an endless effort to satisfy the need without ever reaching satisfaction.”

“There is one who is alone, and he has neither son nor brother. There is no end to all of his labor, neither are his eyes satisfied with wealth. ‘For whom then, do I labor, and deprive my soul of enjoyment?’ This also is vanity. Yes, it is a miserable business.”²¹

“Don’t lay up treasures for yourselves on the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal;²² but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves don’t break through and steal;²³ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”²⁴

“He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous shall flourish as the green leaf.”²⁵ Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of Yahweh your God which he has given you.²⁶

“Don’t withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it.”²⁷ He who has pity on the poor lends to Yahweh; he will reward him.²⁸

“‘Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and test me now in this,’ says Yahweh of Armies, ‘if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough for.’”²⁹

²¹ **Ecclesiastes 4:8** “All the lonely people, where do they all come from?” Paul wonders in “Eleanor Rigby.”

²² **Matthew 6:19** Thoreau: “It is preoccupation with possessions, more than anything else, that prevents us from living freely and nobly.”

²³ **Matthew 6:20**

²⁴ **Matthew 6:21** “I never give you my number, I only give my situation,” Paul writes in “You Never Give Me Your Money.” Giving someone your number, as in a phone number or an address, is personal, but giving them your “situation” is more formal, more impersonal. Paul wrote this as the group was dissolving; financial and business matters had gotten in the way of personal relationships and being Beatles.

²⁵ **Proverbs 11:28** “Tell me that you want the kind of things, that money just can’t buy,” Paul urges in “Can’t Buy Me Love.” True wealth is knowing who we are in Christ.

²⁶ **Deuteronomy 16:17** Giving is powerful because it aligns us with our true nature.

²⁷ **Proverbs 3:27**

²⁸ **Proverbs 19:17**

²⁹ **Malachi 3:10** “Did you think that money was heaven sent?” Paul asks in “Lady Madonna.” Money is indeed “heaven sent” when we follow spiritual principles.

“One who gives to the poor has no lack; but one who closes his eyes will have many curses.³⁰ But when you do merciful deeds, don't let your left hand know what your right hand does,³¹ so that your merciful deeds may be in secret, then your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.³²

“Charge those who are rich in this present world that they not be haughty, nor have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on the living God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.”³³

Then the people rejoiced, because they offered willingly, because with a perfect heart they offered willingly to Yahweh: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.³⁴

Paul, having stayed after this many more days, took his leave of the brothers, and sailed from there for Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. He shaved his head in Cenchreae, for he had a vow.³⁵

When he cut the hair of his head (now it was at every year's end that he cut it; because it was heavy on him, therefore he cut it); he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels, after the king's weight.³⁶ However the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaved.³⁷

³⁰ **Proverbs 28:27** “Open up your eyes now,” Paul, with John, pleads in “Tell Me What You See.”

³¹ **Matthew 6:3** We must give with the right motives in order to be a channel for the Universe to deliver it's good.

³² **Matthew 6:4** We are rewarded by our own higher consciousness.

³³ **1 Timothy 6:17** (Anonymous) “If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can't buy.”

³⁴ **1 Chronicles 29:9** If we have a perfect heart and a giving spirit, we will attract good into our lives.

³⁵ **Acts 18:18**

³⁶ **2 Samuel 14:26** When the Beatles emerged on the scene in America in 1964, their long haircuts were considered daring. Young people everywhere started to grow their hair out to emulate the group, and manufacturers even produced ‘Beatle Wigs’ to capitalize on the fashion statement they had made. But by the Seventies, long hair on men was no longer considered unusual.

Paul: “In America they were all getting house-trained for adulthood with their indisputable principle of life: short hair equals men; long hair equals women. Well, we got rid of that small convention for them.”

³⁷ **Judges 16:22**