

Lesson 9

The
PARABLES
of Jesus

Your Name

LIFE CHANGING STORIES
THE BEGINNING

Parable Lesson 9 Handout

What matters
most in my
life?

Deuteronomy 8

18 "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Eccl 5:19 And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God.

HIS LOVE OF
MONEY SHOWED
HIS LIFE WAS
ABOUT HIMSELF.

For
what?

So people
can know
Jesus

Because where
they will go
after they die
for all eternity is
at stake.

If you have anything or if I have anything, it's because it's been given to us by our Creator. I have learned to say, 'Look, this is yours, God. It's all yours. I'm going to give it back to you.'

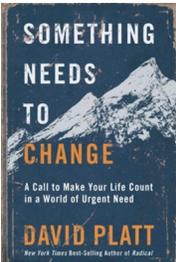
"I don't care if you're in business or out of business, God owns it," says Green.

You can't have a belief system on Sunday and not live it the other six days.

ECHO
BEYOND OUR
TEMPORAL
EXISTENCE.

I don't know how to get anywhere else once you start with that one thing: that the Bible is God's word.

"I want to know that I have affected people for eternity. I believe I am. I believe once someone knows Christ as their personal savior, I've affected eternity. I matter 10 billion years from now."



Alone in a guesthouse at the base of the Himalayas, I found myself on my knees, face to the floor, sobbing. Scattered around me was the evidence of my past week – a backpack, trekking poles, hiking boots. I was fresh off a weeklong journey through some of the highest mountains in the world and only hours from a flight home to the states. But I hadn't planned on ending my trip with out of control tears. Up to that day, I could count on one hand the number of times I'd cried in my adult life. The last time I'd wept was the day I received the phone call that my dad had died of a sudden heart attack. But this day in an Asian guesthouse was different. This time I wasn't weeping because I was missing someone or even something. I was crying uncontrollably because of what others – men, women and children I had met the past week – were missing. Things like water, food, family members,...freedom and hope. I so longed for them to have these things that I couldn't help it. I fell to the floor sobbing and the flood of tears wouldn't stop.

Physically Kamal is approaching death with seemingly no help in sight, and spiritually, up until 20 minutes ago, he had never even heard the name of the ONLY ONE with the power to save him from sin and death.

Why doesn't God send.....someone?

Luke 12:16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?'

18 And 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."

Ecclesiastes 5:10–20

10 Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!

11 The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers!

12 People who work hard sleep well, whether they eat little or much. But the rich seldom get a good night's sleep.

13 There is another serious problem I have seen under the sun. Hoarding riches harms the saver.

14 Money is put into risky investments that turn sour, and everything is lost. In the end, there is nothing left to pass on to one's children.

15 We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us.

16 And this, too, is a very serious problem. People leave this world no better off than when they came. All their hard work is for nothing—like working for the wind.

We all die no matter how much money we have.

there has to be a purpose in having money.

If they don't understand why God has blessed them with it.

Eccl 5:17 Throughout their lives, they live under a cloud—frustrated, discouraged, and angry.

Money is a gift from
God to be used as a tool
for God.

Your money
is God's deal
— not yours.

What is the
point of life
anyway?

1 Timothy 6:17–18

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

The ultimate goal to
helping anyone is to
tell them about
Jesus.

Luke 12:

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How much do
we REALLY
need?

What a stark contrast between where I am lying right now and where I live back home. I'm surrounded by a barren land, not a bountiful one. It's a battle every day here to meet one's needs. No

one is building larger barns to store extra goods. No one has a savings account or 401(k) to depend on in difficult times. Meanwhile, stability and success in my culture is actually defined by bigger barns. Bigger homes to accommodate all our possessions. Bigger bank accounts to make sure we are okay in every conceivable circumstance. This way, you can relax and enjoy all this world has to offer. Yet God labels such a way of life as foolishness. Storing up more possessions and more pleasures in the world is a recipe for wasting one's life. If you really want to be rich, be generous towards God and others. This is the wise way to live.

What is God's ultimate purpose for any of us having money?

As I read this last verse I am struck again by how much I've been given. How can I even begin to express the wealth that God has granted me ever since the day I was born? Not for one day of my life have I ever had to worry about having clean water or sufficient food. I've had all the clothing and shelter I've ever needed. I've never lacked medicine when I have been sick. I got access to the highest levels of education in the world. Ever since I needed one, I've had an income sufficient for covering not only my needs but seemingly endless wants. On top of all these things, I've had a mom and dad, a family and friends, who have loved and cared for me my entire life.

And more important than everything else I've known the gospel and had a relationship with God as long as I can remember. The well-known scripture "to whom much was given to" is an apt description of my life. And that means the conclusion is unavoidable. Of Him much will be required.

Okay, what do you want me to do? What do you want my family to do? I'll do whatever. Yet even as I prayed this I know I'm so prone to prioritize my own wants; pursue my own plans and my own pleasures. Oh God - please help me do whatever you want me to do with all You've given me.

Are my priorities God's priorities?

Oh God - please help me do whatever You want me to do with all You've given me.

