



**Send Me Away**  
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*Scripture: Galatians 5:16, 22–23 (NASB); Matthew 6:24, 33*

**Introduction**

*I'm going to suggest that you flip the script on your finances.*

*This will be more complicated for some. I'm not the boss of you, but through the years, those who have done this were glad they did.*

*If our money could talk and began giving us advice, I doubt we'd be shocked.*

*The shocker is the parallel between what our money would say and what Jesus did say. He said more about money than about heaven.*

*Perhaps because for most people . . .*

There is no **money!** *Would be worse news than . . .* There is no **heaven!**

*Perhaps because he knew money promises more than it can deliver.*

The promise: Just a little **more** and I'll **finally** deliver!

*So if money talked, what would it tell you? Last week . . .*

"I can **add** meaning to your life, but I'm **not** the **meaning** of life."

*Money becomes most meaningful when you view it/use it as a means to an end that doesn't end with you.*

*So last week, we left pondering:*

To what **ends** do you want your life to be a **means**?

*Answer that and everything, including your money, becomes a means.*



“Your **self-control** determines which of us **gets** control.”

*The financial pressure many of us feel has less to do with how much we make and more to do with what we did with it.*

*The pressure we feel would make no sense to most people in the world if they knew how much we made.*

**Us:** “If only I had more **money!**”

**Our Money:** “If only you had more **self-control!**”

*Self-control determines who gets control—who serves whom.*

“I’m a better **servant** than a **master.**”

“I’ll always **go** where you **send** me!”

*This is where faith intersects w/finances. Christians: Your heavenly Father will always nudge you toward . . . well . . .*

*I’ll let a professional tell you: Paul.*

**Galatians 5:16**

So I say, walk by the Spirit . . .

*[“In sync with”/God will nudge you through your conscience.]*

**Galatians 5:22–23 (NASB)**

The fruit of the Spirit . . .

*[The outcome of saying yes to that nudge . . .]*

. . . is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

*The list conflicts with our appetites, including our appetite for stuff.*

*We shouldn’t be surprised that God would nudge us toward self-control.*



Nobody wants to be **mastered** by an **appetite**.

*Besides, you already have a Master. At the end of his parable we looked at last week, Jesus makes this familiar/brilliant observation.*

**Matthew 6:24**

“No one can serve two **masters** . . .

*κύριος: One who is in charge by virtue of ownership. Usually translated Lord. You can't have two Lords/owners. We respond: “I don't even have one.”*

. . . You cannot serve both God and money.”

*Jesus viewed money/the quest for more/as his chief competitor for our devotion.*

His question: Do you **have money** or does money **have you**?

*You may shrug and respond: “It doesn't **have me** because I don't have **enough of it** to have **me**.”*

*So who is he talking to? Everyone!*

**Everyone** is at risk of making money their **ultimate** pursuit or their **ultimate** concern, which makes it their **ultimate**.

*Lord. Face it: It's much easier to trust Jesus with your sin, sorrow, and eternity than your money. He knew that. He was clear:*

*If you haven't surrendered what you have, you haven't really surrendered.*

*If you haven't given him access to what you have, he doesn't have you. You've opted for the lesser master.*

*Jesus addressed this tension and explained the way forward. He does so in terms we all understand: priorities.*



**Matthew 6:33**

“But seek **first** . . .

*The trick to keeping the pursuit of more or infatuation with better out of the driver’s seat is to prioritize something else.*

. . . his **kingdom** and his **righteousness** . . .

*God’s others-first, me-second kingdom.  
His righteousness was on display in Christ . . .*

*Who fearlessly/courageously put others first. Want to be great? You call me teacher and Lord.*

. . . and all these **things** will be **given** to you as well.”

*This isn’t either/or. This is first and second. Somebody’s kingdom has to come first.*

*Jesus knew what we all eventually figure out.*

When we put us **first**, we come in **last**.

*When you come first, you have a difficult time saying **no** to you. Eventually you are mastered . . . not by you . . . but by your appetites.*

*Nobody wants to be mastered by . . .?*

You were **created** to seek **first** your **Creator**.

*When things get out of order, things get disordered. So what do we do? Jesus just told us.*

*We have to put something else first. We have to flip this script.*

“Me-first” **living** with some leftover **giving** . . .

1. **Live**
2. **Save**
3. **Give**



*Welcome to average. Welcome to “just like everybody else.” If this life is all there is...makes perfect sense.*

*But if Jesus is who he claimed to be . . .*

*If Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are reliable records of actual events . . .*

*If James was right . . .*

**[Animation that flips the 1, 3, and heading]**

“Seek-**Ye-First**” Living

1. **Give**
2. Save
3. Live

*Give first. Prioritizing something or someone other than us financially is evidence of submission . . . Lordship . . .*

Telling your money to **go** is proof your money ain’t running the **show**.

*More importantly, giving first is a keystone habit that will lead to a richer, deeper, more intimate relationship with your heavenly Father.*

*Jesus was clear:*

The **litmus test** of our devotion to God is our willingness to put him/others **first** in the arena of our **money** and **possessions**.

*First . . . If you aren’t doing this already, I have a two-month challenge for you, Christian...and Non.*

For the next **two** months . . .

Choose a **percentage** of your income and give it away **as soon as** you get paid.

*Anywhere. The point is to pre-decide to give and give it first, off the top. But the second part is as important as the first.*



Pay **attention** to the internal **tension** this creates.

Listen closely to the **conversations** you have in your mind.

*Beginning right now. The one you're having with me! What's at the center of your resistance?*

*Be honest with yourself. Listen to your excuses. Do it anyway. Two months. You may discover it's not really about money.*

*Something else. It may be what Jesus said. You may be wrestling with who/what is going to function as your Master.*

*And if your money could talk, it might remind you.*

*"I'm a better **servant** than a **master**."*

*I was raised this way. Never known any different. I'm so grateful. It's so easy for me.*

*I raised my children . . . Why? Does the church want their money?*

*No. I don't want money to get my children. Issue is priority. What/who comes first.*

*Christian: Don't kid yourself. Until Jesus is first in your finances, he's not first. You're not a follower. You're a user.*

*Judas tried that. Jesus was so clear. I don't want you to miss it.*

**Matthew 6:24**

**"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."**

*Two months. And don't miss the final installment of Money Talks next week!*