



THEOLOGYPUB

What Would Jesus Buy...?

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Questions to think about:

- * What does it look like to “serve money” (in reference to the verse below, Matthew 6:24)?
- * **Americans spend \$450 billion (that was not a typo - BILLION...) on Christmas every year. Should that sicken us? Is that troubling? What CAN we do about that?**
- * What’s the relationship between justice, charity, conscientious consumerism and faith?
- * Do you think there is a connection between how we prioritize our spending and what we value in the world?
- * Do we value the health and well-being of workers in factories and in fields around the world or do we value the few extra bucks of savings in our own pockets?
- * How important is fair trade?
- * Do we budget our spending with a heart for others, or do we tend to focus more on what's in it for me?
- * Do people of faith spend their money any differently than others? **Should they?**
- * Of course we all have bills to pay, necessities, and we all like to buy things from time to time for fun, so **what’s realistic?**



What does Jesus say?

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But **store up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **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.**”

• *Jesus, from Matthew 6:19-21, 24*

Some resources:

The Advent Conspiracy [www.adventconspiracy.org]

Rethinking Christmas [www.rethinkingchristmas.com]



Top Ten Tips when it comes to Money & the Bible:

1. **Remember that God creates wealth:** Deuteronomy 8:18 – “Remember the Lord your God, for it is God who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”
2. **Feeling rich (hint: YOU ARE RICH)? Give thanks to God:** Jeremiah 9:23-24 – “This is what the Lord says: ‘Let not the wise person boast of their wisdom or the strong person boast of their strength or the rich person boast of their riches, but let them who boast boast about this: that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the Lord.”
3. **Save for the kids’ inheritance:** Proverbs 13:22 – “A good person leaves an inheritance to their children’s children.”
4. **Get out of debt in order to be free:** Proverbs 22:7 – “The poor are always ruled over by the rich, so don’t borrow and put yourself under their power.”
5. **Guard against greed:** Luke 12:15 – “Then [Jesus] said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a person’s life does not consist in the abundance of their possessions.’”
6. **Remember that money isn’t evil, but loving it is:** 1 Timothy 6:10 – “For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some people by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”
7. **Give back to God:** Proverbs 3:9 – “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”
8. **Know that everything belongs to God:** Leviticus 25:23 – “And remember, the land is mine, so you may not sell it permanently. You are merely my tenants and sharecroppers.”
9. **Put God before money:** Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
10. **Count the cost of your spending:** Luke 14:28 – “For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether you have enough to finish it?”

[URL: <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Christianity/2008/09/The-Bible-and-Money-10-Tips-from-Scripture.aspx>]

