

WORDS OF JESUS

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

“You Cannot Serve God and Money”

SPEAKER: Russell Joyce

DATE: July 26, 2026

TEXT(S): Matthew 6:19-33, with Malachi 3:10-12, John 3:16, and Acts 4:32-35

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: *This resource is designed to help you, and your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message.*

Our goal is to help you and your group better understand and apply B4's teaching.

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Jesus talked a lot about money. His teaching didn't seek to offer mere financial advice. It was profoundly spiritual. In Matthew 6, He reveals that our treasure shapes our hearts, and our use of wealth exposes the master we serve. Jesus calls His followers to treat money as a common, useful tool while always regarding God, His people, and His kingdom as holy pursuits. Throughout this teaching and his personal testimony, Pastor Russ invites believers to trust God's faithful provision, reject the false security of Mammon, and invest their lives in eternal treasures rather than temporary possessions.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5 minutes.*

1. What was one lesson about money you learned growing up that still influences you today?
2. If you suddenly received an extra \$5,000, what would you do with it and why?
3. What makes conversations about money uncomfortable?
4. Share about someone who has modeled generosity well in your life.
5. What's one purchase you've made that brought lasting joy, one that didn't, and why?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) from the teaching. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. In Matthew 6:19-24, why do you think Jesus connects treasures, eyes, and masters in one teaching?
2. What does Jesus mean when He says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"?
3. How does Jesus redefine wealth in this passage?
4. In Acts 4, what motivated the early church's remarkable generosity?
5. How does Matthew 6:25-33 explain why trusting money often produces anxiety?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*
Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. In what ways does our culture encourage us to place our trust in financial security?
2. What are some modern forms of "Mammon" besides money itself?
3. How does consumer culture shape what we treasure?
4. Why do you think generosity often feels risky?
5. What cultural messages about success conflict with Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself.*
Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. As you think about where you currently invest the greatest share of your attention, energy, and financial resources, who, or what, is your master?
2. Where do you most struggle to trust God's provision?
3. Is there an area where God may be inviting you to greater generosity?
4. How would your spending change if you viewed money primarily as a tool for God's Kingdom?
5. What is one concrete step you could take this week to seek God's Kingdom first with your finances?

LIVE IT OUT: *These prayer practices can help you integrate this message into day-to-day life.*
Choose one prompt and discuss how you will embrace it this week (5 minutes):

1. Offer daily open-handed prayer: Each morning this week, spend two minutes with open hands and pray something invitational and confessional, like this: *"Lord, everything I have belongs to You. Help me treat money as a tool, not a master. Teach me to treasure Your Kingdom above everything else."*
Afterwards, ask yourself some practical questions:
Where can I be generous today?
What opportunity are You inviting me to notice?
2. Practice replacing anxiety with trust: Whenever financial worries inevitably surface this week, Read Matthew 6:25-33 slowly and carefully, even as it becomes more familiar. Name your specific worries to God. Thank Him for three ways He has provided for you in the past, and pray something like: *"Father, today I choose to seek Your Kingdom first. I trust You with tomorrow."*

You can find B4's [Series Resources here](#).

