

Finances

*Moving from a
Me-centred to a
Kingdom-centred view of
Money*

For an elaboration, see <https://www.a-z.ctn.sg/post/finances-f1>

Opening Prayer

Father God, You are faithful in all of Your words, and gracious in all of Your deeds. You uphold all who are falling, and raise up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to You, and You give them food in due season. You open Your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing

Give us the grace to see Your plan for us in how we should view and use the money that we receive or earn. Help us to trust in Your faithful providence of all of our earthly needs, and to rely on Your unfailing promises of heavenly treasures.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- Adapted from **Psalm 145:13-16**



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Luke 'Perry' Pereira

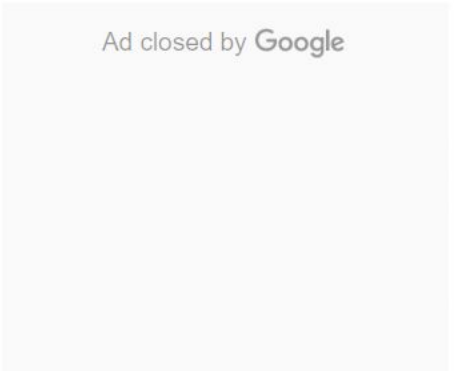
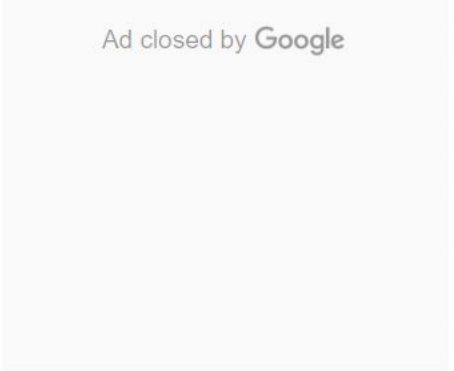
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The government will suspend overseas sales to manage its food security, according to a notification dated May 13. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

PUBLISHED MAY 16, 2022, 11:15 AM SGT

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Loraine Lee

16 May 2022 06:12AM
(Updated: 16 May 2022 06:12AM)



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Angela Koo

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TRENDING

Temptation

Worry, hoard, give less
(understandably)

**More important now than
ever before**

To see and *use* money the
way God intends for
believers

Two Views of Money by a Christian

Me-centred View

How much of my
money shall I use for
God, if any?

Kingdom-centred View

How much of God's
money shall I use for
myself?

Test Yourself

What is your *first thought* when you receive your allowance, income or bonus?

Test Yourself

Do I have
a **Me-centred**

Or

a **Kingdom-centred**
view of money?

What we *think of* and *do* with money
strongly determines what we *think of* and
how much we *care* for God and His
Kingdom

The Parable of the Rich Fool reiterates the
above important principle

The Parable of the Rich Fool

“¹⁵ And [Jesus] said to [the multitude], “Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶ And [Jesus] told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man brought forth 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 pull 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; take your ease, 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 he who **lays up treasure for himself**, and is **not rich toward God.**””

Luke 12:15-21

The “Big Barn Syndrome”

- Rich Fool – not evil *per se*
- Only concerned for himself (“lays up treasure for himself”)
- Not “rich toward God” (**Luke 12:21**) or “rich in *what matters to God*” ([NABRE translation of Luke 12:21](#))

Do you suffer from the
“Big Barn Syndrome”
(storing up treasure for yourself)?

Or have you been *rich in what matters to God?*

Jesus explains this *immediately after* the Parable of
the Rich Fool

Do Not be Anxious (Luke 12:22-34)

²² And [Jesus] said to his disciples, “**Therefore** I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat, nor about your body, what you shall put on. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵ And which of you by being anxious can add a cubit to his span of life?

²⁶ If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass which is alive in the field today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O men of little faith!

Do Not be Anxious (Luke 12:22-34)

²⁹ And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be of anxious mind. ³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek these things; and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ **Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things shall be yours as well.**

³² Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and **give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail,** where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**"

1. Applies to those with little, enough or a lot

“Therefore I tell you” (v.22)

“Take heed, and beware of all **covetousness**;
for a man’s life does not consist in the **abundance of his possessions.**”
(v.15 - context)

2. Jesus tells us numerous times not to worry or be concerned about self

(vv.22-32)

I.e. how *not* to behave like the Rich Fool, who was Me-centred

3. Be Kingdom-centred instead

“*Instead*, seek his kingdom, and these things shall be yours as well.” (v.31)

“*set your hearts on His Kingdom*” (Jerusalem Bible’s translation of v.31), i.e.
be Kingdom-centred

Not to worry + trust that God will provide for all of earthly needs

4. Transform

Me-centred: Invariably leads to worry
(regardless of having little, enough or a lot)

Kingdom-centred: Transforms worry into *concern for others*
and *trust in God's providence*

5. Give Alms (v.33)

One key and necessary way to being rich in what matters to God (v.21)

Purses that do not grow old, treasure in heavens that does not fail,
and which cannot corrode or be stolen (v.33)

6. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (v.34)

Key to having a Kingdom-centred heart?

Place your treasure (including money) for others first

Two Views of Money by a Christian

Me-centred View

- My money
- Placed first for self
- Heart about self (seek ye first *my* kingdom)
- Leads to worry

Kingdom-centred View

- God's money (how we should view all of our money)
- Placed first for others
- Heart about *others* and *His Kingdom* (seek ye first *His* kingdom)
- Worry transformed into *concern for others + trust in God's providence*

A KINGDOM-CENTRED VIEW OF MONEY:

The 4 "P"s to set aside money for



 <h3>POOR</h3> <p>Love for and giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity, and it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.</p>	 <h3>PARISH</h3> <p>The 5th Precept of the Church requires Catholics to help provide for the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.</p>
 <h3>PARENTS</h3> <p>Grown children, as much as they can, must give material and moral support to their parents in their old age, illness, loneliness or distress.</p>	 <h3>PERSONAL</h3> <p>Our personal use of money is no longer the first (or often only) concern.</p>

Source: Catholic.sg
Instagram page

Application – the 4 “P”s

Powerfully Living Testimony

*Everything we own really belongs to
God*

Application – the 4 “P”s

Shapes our hearts to a greater and deeper love for God and others

Much less earthly attachments

Enlarged capacity to become missionary disciples

Closing Prayer – The “Suscipe” by St. Ignatius of Loyola:

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.
To You, Lord, I return it.

Everything is Yours; do with it what You will.
Give me only Your love and Your grace,
that is enough for me.

Amen.