

## **The Gables – Money**

### **Opening Story # 1:**

A train traveling through the West [in the 1880s] was held up by masked bandits. Two friends, who were on their way to California, were among the passengers.

"Here's where we lose all our money," one said, as a robber entered the car.

"You don't think they'll take everything, do you?" the other asked nervously.

"Certainly," the first replied. "These fellows never miss anything."

"That will be terrible," the second friend said. "Are you quite sure they won't leave us any money?" he persisted.

"Of course," was the reply. "Why do you ask?"

The other was silent for a minute. Then, taking a fifty-dollar note from his pocket, he handed it to his friend.

"What is this for?" the first asked, taking the money.

"That's the fifty dollars I owe you," the other answered. "Now we're square."

Story Source: [http://jokes.ochristian.com/Money/The\\_Train\\_Robbery.shtml](http://jokes.ochristian.com/Money/The_Train_Robbery.shtml)

### **Dialog between Rick & Donna:**

The scripture outline for this dialog was taken from <http://www.acts17-11.com/money.html>

**Rick:** My grandfather used to joke, "I may not be happy, but I've got a *lot* of money."

**Donna:** Is he the one who also said, at his Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary party, that these have been twenty-four of the happiest years of my life?

**Rick:** One in the same. He was quite the jokester.

**Donna:** So, what are we going to talk about today?

**Rick:** Money.

**Donna:** Oh, I love money.

**Rick:** You do?

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**Donna:** Yes. You can buy all kinds of cool stuff with money like cars and houses, take nice vacations, and go to the spa, plays and fancy restaurants.

**Rick:** Oh!

**Donna:** It's like in the movie *Jerry Maguire*, where Cuba Gooding Jr. tells Tom Cruise to "Show me the money." So, what do you say, Rick? (With feeling) Show me the money, Rick. Show me the money.

**Rick:** Donna! This is a Bible study!

**Donna:** Oh, that's right. Sorry. So, what does the Bible say about money?

**Rick:** Oh, quite a bit.

**Donna:** Like what?

**Rick:** Well, Jesus talks about money in the *Sermon on the Mount*. Please read from Matthew 6:19-21 for us.

**Donna:** Sure. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

**Rick:** OK, now continue with verse 24.

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

**Rick:** Right. So, God wants you to look forward to your time in heaven, instead of just your time here on earth, and he wants you to serve Him instead of the things of this world. If you love money too much, it can turn into idolatry, which is worshiping created things more than the creator. Now please read Hebrews 13:5.

**Donna:** "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

**Rick:** OK. Now read Proverbs 23:4-5.

**Donna:** Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

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**Rick:** So, what's the lesson here?

**Donna:** To be content with what you have.

**Rick:** Yes. The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians while he was in prison. Here's what he wrote in 4:11-13: "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

**Donna:** Well, I *could* be content with a little more.

**Rick:** Really! John D. Rockefeller, one of the richest men who ever lived, was once asked, "How much money is enough?" He replied, "Just a little more." (He was actually a great philanthropist.)

**Donna:** What does the Bible say about getting just a little more?

**Rick:** Proverbs 30:8-9 says, "Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God."

**Donna:** What else?

**Rick:** In Luke 14:33 Jesus said, "In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."

**Donna:** So, we should ensure that nothing is more important in our lives than Jesus.

**Rick:** Correct. In addition to that, we should also give of our time, talent and money to others.

- In Luke 3:11 John the Baptist said, "...The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."
- In Matthew 6:1-4, which is part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

**Donna:** So, we should give. And when we do give, we should give anonymously.

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**Rick:** Correct.

**Donna:** This is very interesting, because I always thought the one who dies with the most toys wins.

**Rick:** Actually, the one who dies with the most toys loses. Please take a look at Luke 12:15-21.

**Donna:** “Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ “This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

**Rick:** There’s a picture of a hearse going to the cemetery with a U-Haul attached to the back of it. What message do you gather from that?

**Donna:** You can’t take it with you.

**Rick:** Exactly. Ecclesiastes 5:10-15 says, “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep. I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when he has a son there is nothing left for him. Naked a man comes from his mother’s womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand.

**Donna:** Obviously, we need money to live. We just not supposed to love it.

**Rick:** Right.

- 1 Timothy 6:8-12 says, “But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

**Donna:** Money can lead you away from God?

**Rick:** Yes.

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- In the parable of the seeds, Jesus says in Mark 4:18-19: “Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.”

**Donna:** So, what should we do with all this information? What are the takeaways?

**Rick:** Well, let’s see:

- 1 John 3:17-18 says: If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.
- Luke 12:47-48 says: That servant who knows his master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.
- In Revelation 3:17-19 Jesus says: “You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.”

**Donna:** So, Jesus is saying we must repent if we love money more than him. What are the “white clothes to wear” that he mentions?

**Rick:** If we admit to God that we are a sinner, ask him to forgive our sins, and ask Jesus to be our savior, he will make us clean. When we get to heaven, he will give us a white robe to wear.

**Donna:** That white robe is more valuable than all the money in the world, isn’t it?

**Rick:** Absolutely. Luke 9:25 says, “What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?”