Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

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Money Tells a Story

* What story is your money telling?
	+ How does your use of money align with who you are, who you want to be, and where you want to go?
* “And sure, staying on the show for a few more years makes all the sense in the world. It’s at the height of its popularity, breaking network and cable records, and we have a full spectrum of offers coming our way. A couple more years could make all the difference. But at every step of the way there’ll be another ante, another all-in required of us. Who knows where it all would end? It’s easy to talk a big game when you have nothing on the line. It’s a lot harder to **put your money where your mouth is** when it could cost you everything.” –Chip Gaines in *Capital Gaines*
* We all talk some kind of game. We all have money.
* As Christians, we talk a very specific game. We define it in accordance with scripture
	+ A disciple is someone who follows Jesus daily compelling others to do the same in the way that we love God, love the Church, and love the world.
* What story are you telling? Does it follow what we claim to be as Christians and followers of Jesus?

Put your money where your mouth is

1. God aligned giving
* Exercise:
	+ Gather whatever you need to assess your money use over the last 1-3 months. Consider bank statements, credit card statements, electric apps, etc.
	+ Review your spending. Consider using highlighters or markers to categorize your spending. Consider categories such as food, housing, fun, giving.
	+ Reflect: where has your money gone?
		- Has your money gone to things that God expresses in his word are closest to his heart?
* God aligned giving means spending money on:
	+ The orphan, widow, poor, weak, or others in need
	+ Evangelism: spreading the gospel of Jesus locally, nationally, and globally
	+ The local Church: gathering of believers for worship and encouragement
* What story is your money telling?
	+ Reflect: Can the way you give be an opportunity to put your money where your mouth is? Align your finances with what you say and believe
1. Leveraged in lifestyle
* Reflect on the money that you keep and spend to live. Do you see your home, your vehicle, and your stuff as an opportunity to be leveraged to follow Jesus daily and to love the people around you?
	+ Example: Consider your couch or your dining room table. How have you used this furniture to love people? How do these items express followship of Jesus?
* 36% of all Americans feel serious loneliness. What better time than now to use our homes (kitchen tables, food etc.) to leverage our lifestyle?
	+ We can use our homes to fill a need emotionally, relationally, spiritually
* God has given us all that we have and it is more than just for us.
* What story is your money telling?
	+ Reflect: What story is your stuff telling?
1. Solidarity in service
* Service – our work. The thing that many of us do through which God provides money. We do a service and receive compensation in exchange.
* We don’t work just for money. If we did, it would look much different than a Jesus follower
* Money says: do what you need to do to get as much as you can.
	+ Our attitudes in the workplace (honesty and integrity, cheating, etc.) don’t matter with this definition.
	+ If follow the money and not Jesus, our lives will tell a different story
* How is our work in followship of Jesus, rather than serving to make money alone?
	+ Honesty, integrity, attitude, and the ways we love others around us.
* What story is your money telling?
	+ Reflect: What story does your work life tell?

What story are you telling?

* Money talks – it tells a story. What story are you telling?
* It’s a lot harder to put our money where our mouth is when it could cost everything.
	+ But what if we did?
	+ What if we lived as Jesus followers daily in the way we love God and love others?
	+ What if we join God in what He’s doing around the world in reconciling and restoring the world to Himself?
* The way we give, live, and work are opportunities to live as Jesus followers and join God in His mission.
* 1 John 3:16-18: This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Resources for further study

* Generous giving videos: <https://generousgiving.org/stories>
* *The Treasure Principle* – Randy Alcorn