[sermon title] God’s Kingdom, money and values

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Overview
The aim of this sermon outline is to give a Kingdom foundation to the HEARTLINES Values and Money campaign and to link the aspects of God’s Kingdom, money and values together. The critical objectives include:

- Giving a better understanding of the meaning of Kingdom
- Highlighting the choice of the two ‘masters’ we can serve
- How our values about money are determined by the ‘master’ we choose to serve
- How our behaviour with regards to money flows out of our choice of ‘master’ and hence the value system we build based on that choice
- This foundational understanding will give vital understanding of the ‘root’ of what drives our values and behaviours when it comes to the 5 money values that the Values and Money campaign addresses.

What is the Kingdom of God?
Reference verses: Matthew 6:10 (NLT) * Acts 1:3 (NLT) * 1 John 3:8b (NLT)

Summary Notes

- Jesus asked us to pray about the Kingdom of God and also spent His last days before the ascension teaching about it. Jesus really wanted us to understand that He had completed His task of destroying the works of the devil (1 John 3:8b) and that it is now our mandate to receive the fullness of that victory on earth so that we can see biblical culture influencing all areas of society.
- Jesus would never have asked us to pray these words if He did not expect that what He said would happen. There is day coming when the will of the Father will be done on earth as it is in heaven – a day when the will of God will be seen on the earth.
- Jesus knew that the disciples had understood the Gospel of Salvation (coming into a personal relationship with the Father through Him) but now needed to understand the Gospel of the Kingdom (reconciling all creation and areas of society to the Father through His finished work on the cross and by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the will of the Father would be seen on earth as it is in heaven).
- So if we are to see God’s Kingdom established on earth, and if we want God to use us in doing this, then we, as His followers, need to seriously consider who we are serving.

The opposing ‘masters’ – God versus money
Reference verse: Matthew 6:24 (NLT)

Summary Notes

- Jesus gives a very clear statement when He tells us that it’s impossible for anyone to serve two masters. Interestingly he does not even bring the devil into His statement, but rather declares the two masters to be God and money.
- Money is the greatest tool that the devil uses to draw people away from God and Jesus knew this. We have a choice about which master we are serving and will serve in the future.
The root question – are we serving God or are we serving money?

**Reference verses:** Mark 12:29-31 (NLT) * 1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT)

**Summary Notes**
- The choice of which master we serve determines our value system and our value system in turn determines our behaviour. When we choose to serve God our value system is driven by the greatest commandment of His Kingdom which Jesus gives to us in Mark 12:29-31.
- The devil will always try and take our love away from God and others by focusing it on loving mammon (the spirit of money) and that is why the Apostle Paul said that the root of all kinds of evil is the love of money (1 Timothy 6:10).
- When we see money as more important than God and people we effectively have chosen the master of money instead of God.
- What we do with regards to money should be determined by what God says. The Bible has about 2,350 verses about money and about 15% of what Jesus spoke about was related to money.

**What we do with our love is critical and determines who we are truly serving**

**Reference verses:** 1 John 2:15-16 (NLT) * 1 John 3:17 (NLT)

**Summary Notes**
- Our love should only flow towards God and people. When we love money more than God and people it shows in our value system from which our behaviour flows.
- Every decision we make on the issues of earning, spending, borrowing, saving and giving will come out of the foundation of which master we are serving.
- Serving the master of money brings out financial behaviour that is driven by the values of materialism, greed, self-ambition, cheating, stealing, lying, corruption, extortion, bribery, etc. We’ll do anything to acquire money and material possessions at the expense of people and obedience to God.
- Serving God brings out financial behaviour that is consistent with what the Bible teaches us: generosity, self-control, honest and just business practices, wisdom in how we use our money, etc.

**Principles to build our lives on when we choose to serve God and not Money**

1) God is the owner and master of everything. Psalm 50: 9-12 (NIV)

2) We are stewards of what God gives us. Matthew 7:7-11 (ERV)

This parable, and many other teachings and parables of Jesus make it clear that as His children, everything we have and are; our possessions, money, abilities, etc. are all given to us by God to be used by us for God’s purposes and not our own.


We don’t have to worry about our needs, because God has promised to provide for us. We can therefore concentrate on serving him.

The choices we make regarding our ‘honesty in earning’, ‘responsibility in spending’, ‘wisdom in borrowing’, ‘self control in saving’ and ‘generosity in giving’ are linked to these foundational truths. (These principles are further taught in the HEARTLINES Nothing for Mahala Bible study series).
Are we serving God or money?

Reference verses: Romans 8:1 (NLT) * 1 John 1:9 (NLT)

Summary Notes

- The root question that we all need to honestly answer is, ‘Which master am I truly serving?’
- Let’s bring this question and our hearts before God and allow Him to minister to us. The answer to this question could be the next biggest thing (after our personal salvation) that we can bring to the altar and surrender to Him.
- The good news is that when we bring this to the Lord irrespective of where we have been in the past He does not condemn us (Romans 8:1) but pours out His love and forgiveness on us (1 John 1:9).
- What the disciple John had to say in 1 John 5:21 is very critical for us as the body of Christ especially in this day where many monetary things are pulling at us:
  ‘Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your hearts.’ (NLT).
  Amen.

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As printed in the HEARTLINES Bible study on Values & Money