



### **A Sudden Realization**

Matthew 6:21; Luke 16:13; Proverbs 22:7;  
1 Chronicles 29:11; Proverbs 21:20, 21:5

**Message from Pastor Martin Hawley**

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**Bottom Line:** You can't wholeheartedly follow Jesus and remain lost financially.

#### **Introduction:**

We've all been lost at some point in time. Being lost is different than getting lost. Generally, we don't know when we are getting lost, but we do know when we are lost.

The interesting thing about getting lost is it always begins with two things: assurance that we know where we are and confidence that we know how to get where we are going.

And then, there's that sudden realization ...I don't know what I am! You only realize you are lost *after* you become lost.

**You can get lost in just about any arena of life.**

Morally                      Relationally                      Spiritually  
Professionally              Academically                      Physically

The strange thing about being lost is ...we usually speed up.

But the best thing a lost person can do is ...ask for directions!

For the next few weeks, I want to zero in on the area of personal finance.

Why would I preach on this?

You can't wholeheartedly follow Christ and remain lost financially. Jesus said, "Where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also (Matthew 6:21 NIV)."

He can't have total access to your heart until He gets total access to your treasure. And we aren't talking about giving it all away. That would be irresponsible.

"No one can serve **two masters**. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both **God** and **money** (Luke 16:13 NIV)."

"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is **slave** to the lender (Proverbs 22:7)."

"Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all (1 Chronicles 29:11 NIV)."

**Bottom line...You can't wholeheartedly follow Christ and remain lost financially.**

How you handle your money is a spiritual issue.

God wants you to ... (Goal of this series)

1. **Trust Him** with every area of your life.
2. **Experience God's faithfulness** financially.
3. **Be free** to go where God wants you to go, do what He wants you to do, and give what He wants you to give.
4. **Be secure** financially.

## 5. **Be content.**

"The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down (Proverbs 21:20)."

### **Conclusion:**

These principles apply and work at every level of income.

The opposite of lost is not found. It is realizing where you are and how to get to where you want to be.

"The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty (Proverbs 21:5)."

Ever made a hasty financial decision and regretted it?  
Do you have a **plan**?

For these six weeks, I want to challenge you to do something you will never regret. It is the first step to financial freedom...the first step back toward knowing where you are so you can get where you want to be.

**Homework: Track your spending. Learn where the money is going.**

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Memorize: Matthew 6:21.**
- Track your spending. Learn where the money is going.**
- Join us next Sunday for LOST Part 2: Moving to Higher Ground.**

### **NEXT WEEK— LOST: Moving to Higher Ground**

You have a little bit of time and a little bit of treasure and a big opportunity. Don't miss it.

Pull out a dollar. Hold it in the hand opposite your watch. You have time and money. What are you going to do with it? The challenge in this lesson is to invest those things, time and money, into something that will never pass away.