

FIRST THINGS FIRST

WEEK 1: WHERE IS IT... GOING?

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Letting Jesus Lead What We Hold

Jesus forms the way we treasure, trust, spend, steward, and give.

SERMON REWIND

This week begins our **First Things First** series by asking an honest question: **Where is it... going?**

Jesus invites us to live fully surrendered lives. That surrender includes our relationships, our decisions, our time, our habits, and even our money. Although, money is not the only window into the heart, Jesus does teach that it is one of the clearest places where our values, fears, trust, and priorities are revealed.

In Matthew 6, Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." He then says we cannot serve both God and money. What Jesus is doing here is He is inviting us to let Him form one of the most personal parts of our lives.

For most of us, our wallet is one of the last places we let Jesus lead. We invite Him into our families, our pain, our calling, and our habits, but we still struggle to surrender the way we spend, save, steward, and give.

This series is about formation and for us to invite Jesus to form and to disciple every part of us, including what we hold.

The invitation this week is simple: To ask Jesus what haven't I

surrendered to him and for Him to lovingly reveal what we treasure so He can form us into who He desires us to be.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 6:19-34 (NIV)

Additional Verse: Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Money Is Never Just Money

Jesus teaches that money is connected to the heart. It is a great indicator that can reveal what we love, fear, trust, and serve.

- a. Why do you think Jesus talks so directly about money and possessions?
- b. What are some ways money can reveal what matters most to us?

2 Where Your Treasure Is

Jesus says in Matthew 6:21 "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- a. What does the word "treasure" mean to you?
- b. How have you seen your own heart follow what you give your time, attention, or money to?

3 A Window to the Heart

Money is not the only thing that reveals our heart, but it can act as a window into what we value most.

- a. What are some things our spending, saving, or giving might reveal about us?
- b. How can we invite Jesus to lead this area of our lives without falling into shame or fear?

4 The Last Place We Surrender

For many of us, money is one of the hardest areas to fully surrender to Jesus.

- a. Why do you think money can be such a difficult area to trust God with?
- b. What would it look like for Jesus to form the way we spend, save, steward, and give?

First Things First

Jesus invites us to reorder our lives around His Kingdom.

- a. What are some things that can quietly compete for first place in our lives?
- b. What is one practical step you can take this week to put Jesus first with what He has given you?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Money can be uncomfortable to talk about because it touches trust, fear, pressure, shame, security, and control. But Jesus brings this part of our lives into the light because He wants to form us in freedom.

- Take a moment to think about your spending, saving, and giving over the last month. If your bank statement could tell a story, what might it reveal about what you value most?
- Where might Jesus be inviting you to surrender more fully?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, practice putting first things first by:

- Take a few minutes to look honestly at where your money, time, and attention have been going.
- Ask Jesus, "What does this reveal about what I treasure?"
- Choose one small step of surrender in the way you spend, save, steward, or give.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you trust Jesus with every part of your life, including what you hold.

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Let the group close by remembering that Jesus invites us to seek first His Kingdom. When He becomes first, everything else begins to find its proper place.