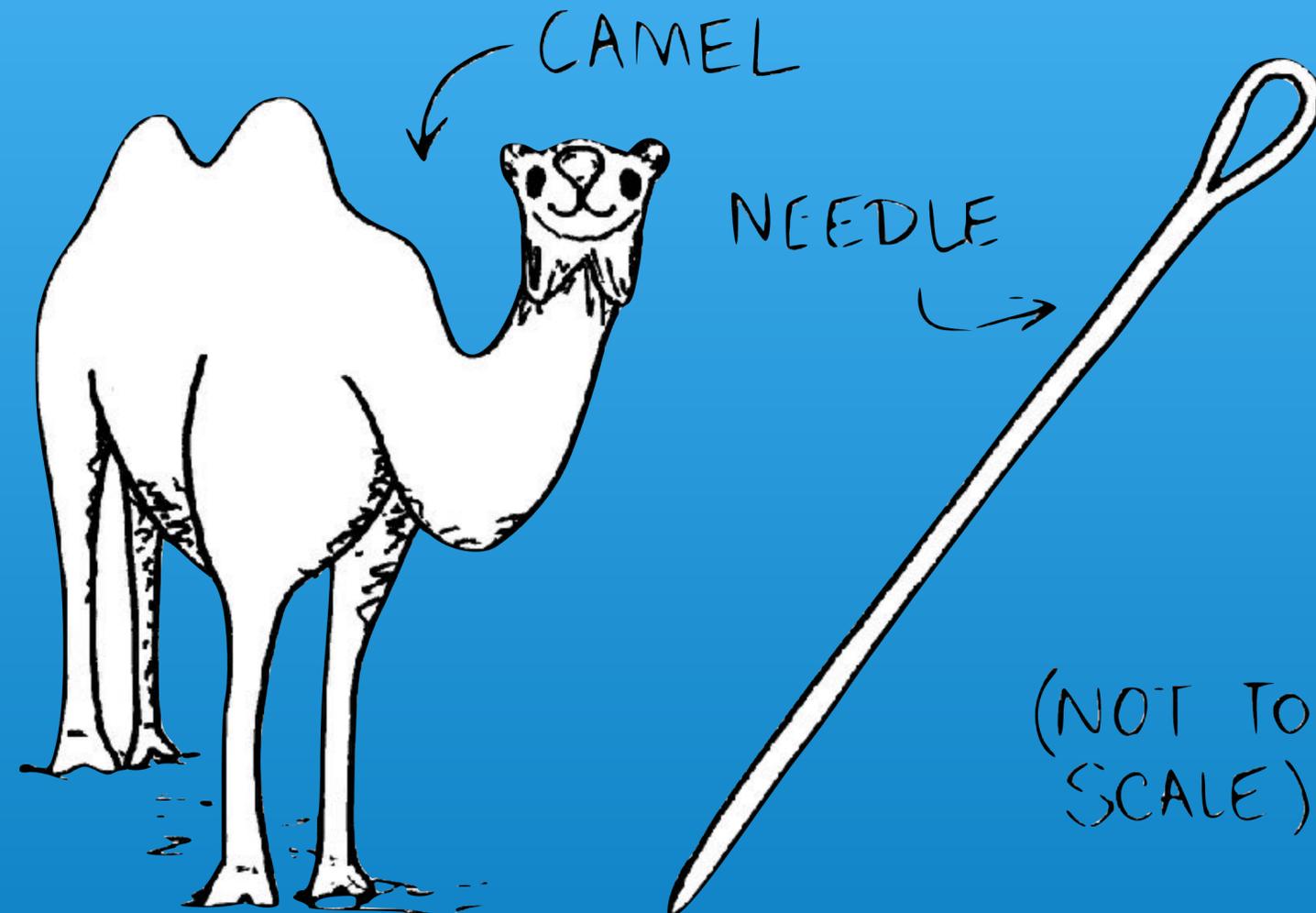


# Jesus and Money: A 21st Century Reading



June 24, 2017  
Rev. Douglas S. Abel

# Three Types of Gospel Money Texts

**Jesus using Money and Possessions to Illustrate another Truth**

Parable of the Talents  
Parable of Treasure in the Field/Pearl

Matt 25:14-30  
// Luke 19:11-27  
Matt 13:44-45

**Stories about how Jesus Related to Money and possessions in Real Life**

Render to Caesar ...  
Temple Tax w/ Fish  
Support of Jesus' Ministry

Matt 22:15-22  
// Mark 12:13-17  
// Luke 20:20-26  
Matt 17:24-27  
Luke 8:1-3

**Jesus Directly Teaching on Money and Possessions**

Rich Young Ruler\*  
Parable of Rich Fool  
Parable of Rich Man & Poor Lazarus

Luke 18:18-23  
// Matt 19:16-26  
// Mark 10:17-27  
Luke 12:16-21  
Luke 16:19-31

\* The Rich Young Ruler also fits into the second category: stories of how Jesus related to money and possessions in real life.

# General Observations from Broad Survey

Jesus recognized that money, in and of itself, is morally neutral and socially necessary.

- *Managing money well is commended*
- *Using money to benefit the poor is encouraged/commanded*
- *Paying social obligations willingly is modeled*

Jesus understood that use of money is the presenting issue, not real issue.

- *Barometer of the Heart*
- *Indication of one's true god*

Jesus saw and lamented the evil and injustice done because of love of money.

- *Prophetic passion for the poor and captive in every sense*
- *Enormous factor in creating and perpetrating socio-economic injustice*





}} insert Luke's  
Money Texts Here!! }}  
(or see handout)

# The Lucan Jesus and Money

## Luke's "Set Up" of Jesus: The Magnificat

***Luke 1:53 — "...He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty..."***

# The Lucan Jesus and Money

Luke's "Set Up" of Jesus:

The Birth Narrative

**Luke 2**

***No Room at the Inn***

***Shepherds***

***Laid in a Manger***

***Offer Pigeons not Sheep***

**Matthew 2**

***Royal Title***

***Magi / Wise Men***

***Living in a House***

***Receive Precious Gifts***

# The Lucan Jesus and Money

**Luke's "Set Up" of Jesus:  
John the Baptist's Advice**

***Luke 3:10-14***

***"...The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same...."***

***"...Don't collect any more than you are required to...."***

***"...Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."***

# The Lucan Jesus and Money

## Jesus' "Inaugural Address"

### Luke 4:18-19

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release for the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

# **The Lucan Jesus and Money**

## **The Rich Young Ruler**

**Luke 18:18-23**

### ***Themes:***

***Who is your real God?***

***Refusal to share with the poor***

***Do you have riches, or do riches have you?***

***Cost of Following Jesus***

# The Lucan Jesus and Money

## The Rich Fool

Luke 12:16-21

### *Themes:*

*Who is your real God?*

*Refusal to share with the poor*

*Folly of Hoarding,*

*Tragic/Ironic Reversal of Fortune*

# **The Lucan Jesus and Money**

## **The Rich Man and Poor Lazarus**

**Luke 16:19-31**

### ***Themes:***

***Refusal to share with the poor***

***Folly of Hoarding***

***Value of a Person in God's Eyes***

***Tragic/Ironic, Dishonorable Reversal of Fortune***

# Principles Evident in Luke

**Refusal to bless others with what we have is wrong... *and* foolish.**

**We are not as secure as we think we are.**

**Money-Love is a false god that can't save us. It doesn't matter as much as we think.**

**Money does matter to God, because justice for the poor matters to God.**

# **The Paradigm Shift: Biblical Koinonia in an Individualistic Culture**

**Stewardship vs. Ownership**

**Commonality vs. Possession**

**Relief for the Poor vs. Personal Comfort**

**Alternative Community vs. Religious Institution**



A photograph of a round wooden dining table with ten matching wooden chairs arranged around it. The table is made of light-colored wood and has a slightly worn surface. The chairs are made of dark wood with curved backs and seats. The floor is made of light-colored wooden planks. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# Table-Centric Neo-Koinonia

## Lucan Texts that Reference Money

1. Mary's Song of Praise (The Magnificat) — Luke 1:52-53
2. A Homeless Family — Luke 2:7
3. Too Poor for a Sheep — Luke 2:22-24, cf Leviticus 12:8
4. John the Baptist on Fruits Worthy of Repentance — Luke 3:10-14
5. Jesus Announces His Ministry — Luke 4:16-21
6. Jesus Associates With Tax Collectors — Luke 5:27-32
7. Lucan Beatitudes
  - a) "Blessed are you who are poor..." — Luke 6:20-21
  - b) "But woe to you who are rich..." — Luke 6:24-25
  - c) "Give to everyone who begs from you... if anyone takes your goods..." — Luke 6:30
  - d) "If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive..." — Luke 6:34-35
8. An Answer to John the Baptist — Luke 7:18-23
9. Illustration On Forgiveness — Luke 7:40-43
10. Jesus ministry supported by women benefactors — Luke 8:1-3
11. Mention of riches in the parable of the Sower — Luke 8:14
12. Commissioning of the Twelve: no provisions, money or bag — Luke 9:1-5
13. Feeding of 5,000 (men) — Luke 9:12-17
14. On True Profit — Luke 9:25
15. The Mission of the Seventy: no purse or bag — Luke 10:2-12
16. Care of the Good Samaritan — Luke 10:30-37
17. True Charity — Luke 11:38-41
18. Pharisees Tithing mint & Dill but neglecting justice — Luke 11:42
19. The Value of a Person vs. Sparrows — Luke 12:6-7
20. Inheritance and Greed — Luke 12:13-15
21. Parable of Rich Fool Building BARNES for his Excess — Luke 12:16-21
22. Don't Worry, Be Happy — Luke 11:22-32
23. Where treasure is, there heart is also — Luke 12:33-34

24. Faithful, prudent manager — Luke 12:42-48
25. Lawsuits — Luke 12:57-59
26. Hospitality — Luke 14:12-14
27. Count the Cost — Luke 14:28-33
28. Parable of the Lost Coin — Luke 15:8-10
29. The Parable of the Lost Son — Luke 15:11-31
30. The Parable of the Shrewd Manager — Luke 16:1-8
31. Commentary on the Parable of the Dishonest Manager — Luke 16:10-13
32. Pharisees are Lovers of money — Luke 16:14-15
33. Rich Man and Lazarus — Luke 16:19-25
34. Story of Zacchaeus — Luke 19:1-10
35. Parable of Ten Pounds — Luke 19:11-27
36. Cleansing the Temple — Luke 19:45-46
37. The Widow's Offering — Luke 21:1-4
38. Judas Iscariot to be paid for his Betrayal — Luke 22:3-6
39. Purse, Bag, Sword—now you better bring them! — Luke 22:35-38

*Note: there are more that could arguably added to the list that deal with material things, poor, wealth, or possessions, but not specifically money. This is simply to illustrate the ubiquity of Lucan attention to these matters and their direct relevance to Luke's presentation of Jesus.*

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[PastorDoug@VassarFPC.org](mailto:PastorDoug@VassarFPC.org)