



MONEY DOES NOT MAKE A VERY GOOD GOD

LATELY IT SEEMS TO ME that many people are in a bad mood. Is it my imagination, or is this especially the case on days when the Dow is down? Tempers are more brittle, feelings are erratic, the usual sunny outlook is one of gloom, and even the perennial optimist sounds cynical. Should I laugh or cry when a friend bemoans, “My 401(k) is now a 201(k)”?

Are emotions and economics so dependent upon one another that a bad day on Wall Street can ruin a beautiful day on St. Charles Avenue? Are faith and finances so fused in our hearts that when dollars are stretched, the soul is stressed? I guess it depends on just how important money is to you.

If you are up when the stocks are up and down when the Dow is down, then you may be letting money rule your life. If it is what you worry about, work for, obsess over, crave, and think you need above all else, you may have allowed it to assume a throne that rightfully belongs to another kind of king. If you think that money growing on trees would surely be the answer to all your prayers, you may be bowing at the wrong altar. For I have found that money makes a very poor god. It is fickle, faithless, false. It will lift you up and carry you for awhile, but always dumps you in a ditch. It makes you feel good for a time, but it cannot last. As the Prodigal Son discovered when the last penny of his inheritance ran out, it will abandon you at the pig farm. It is not eternal. It doesn't care. Do not worship at its altar. Do not measure your self-worth by it. Do not place your ultimate reliance upon it. Refuse to let your life revolve around it.

As your pastor who cares for you, it is my job to remind you of these things on a regular basis, but perhaps now more than ever:

“Take care, and be on your guard...
for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”
Luke 12:15

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God...so that they may take hold of that life which is life indeed.”
Timothy 6:17-19

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for God has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”
Hebrews 13:5

“You cannot worship both God and money.”
Matthew 6:24

Plan to be in church on Sunday where once again we will re-center our lives around that which is *forever*.

Callie Winn
Pastor, Rayne UMC, New Orleans

*“If you think that
money growing on
trees would surely be
the answer to all your
prayers, you may be
bowing at the
wrong altar.”*