

It was a vivid reminder of the importance of right timing. We can start a business and carefully plan for the future, yet if the timing is wrong that business can fail.

In Haggai 1, the focus is on the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon. They knew God wanted them to rebuild the temple, and they had begun the work. But then construction stopped. Their excuse? “The time has not come, the time that the Lord’s house should be built” (Haggai 1:2).

Is there ever a *wrong* time to obey God? A friend told me that his priority now is to become successful so he can earn lots of money to give to the Lord later. I told him that God wants us to be faithful now. God wants us to be His “living sacrifice” right now (Romans 12:1).

We might be afraid of what will happen to us if we choose to obey God immediately. But being obedient to His commands is not usually about right timing. It is all about who God is and who we are as His servants.

Thinking It Over
When have I been reluctant to obey the Lord?
Why do I struggle to do what is right?
How has God blessed me when I have obeyed Him?

True faith will obey without delay.



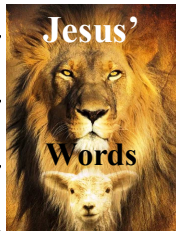
APRIL 18, 2021

Right Timing

Albert Lee

I live in Singapore, so I had more than a casual interest in the 1997 Asian economic crisis. It came suddenly and caught most people off-guard. One day people were rich and the next day they were poor.





\$ Idol Dollars \$

From Luke 16 we can make 7 statements about money:

1. **Money is seductive**, verses 1-9, 11
2. **Money is a tool**, verses 9-10
3. **Money is a test**, verses 11-12 [last time]

(Exodus 20:3) *You are to have no other gods besides me. [ISV]*

(Ezekiel 14:3) *"Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?"*

(Isaiah 44:14-17) *He cuts down cedars for himself. And takes the cypress and the oak; He secures it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes it. (16) He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire." (17) And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, Prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!"*

(Colossians 3:5) *Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, .. and covetousness, which is idolatry.*

4. Money is a _____, verses 13-14

(1 Timothy 6:9) *But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

5. Money is _____, verses 15-17

(Psalms 49:6-8) *Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the multitude of their riches, (7) None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him; (8) For the redemption of their souls is costly,.....;*



(Psalms 52:6-7) *The righteous also shall see and fear, And shall laugh at him, saying, (7) "Here is the man who did not make God his strength, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, And strengthened himself in his wickedness."*

(Proverbs 11:4) *Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death. **(Zephaniah 1:18)** Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them In the day of the LORD's wrath; ...*

(1 Corinthians 3:11) *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*



Pooja shelf



(Jeremiah 9:23-24) *Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; (24) Rather, let the one who boasts, boast in this: that he understands and knows me, for I am the LORD who acts with gracious love, justice, and righteousness in the land. I delight in these things," declares the LORD.*

6. Money wrecks _____, verse 18



(Matthew 19:3) *The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"*

(Deuteronomy 24:1-4) *"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, (2) when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's wife, (3) if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, (4) then her former*

husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

(Matthew 19:9) *And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."*

7. Money is a test; money determines _____, v 19-31

(Mark 8:37-38) *Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (38) For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*