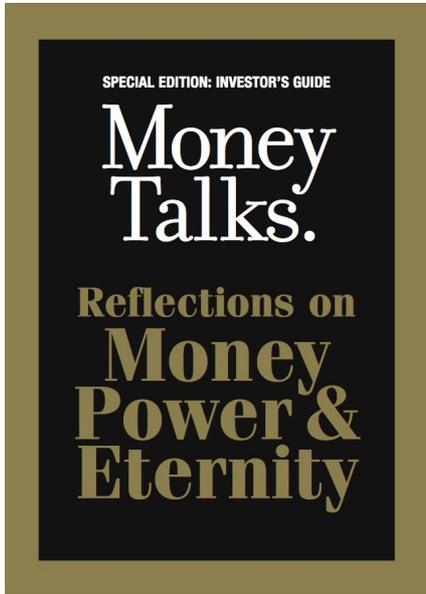


Discussion Questions - Talk 4

Should we re-think the rat race?



New International Version 1984 (NIV 1984)

Luke 19:1-10

¹⁹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'"

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

1. Compare verses 5 and 9. What's Jesus saying about himself?
2. Zacchaeus understood:
 - a. He was loved by God.
 - b. He understood he had been forgiven.
 - c. Jesus must be the Lord of his life.

What effect did this have on him? How do we know Zacchaeus' change of heart is genuine?

3. What do you make of 2 a. b. and c. above?
4. What's the right attitude to money once Jesus is our Lord? (see verses below)

1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. *19*

19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

5. Would you like to pray this prayer?

Dear God,

I admit I've not treated you as I should. I have lived with other things at the centre of my life and not you, the one who gives me life.

Please forgive me, because Jesus died in my place.

Please help me to live with Jesus as my Lord and to trust him in all parts of my life.

Amen