



FINANCIAL FREEDOM

with Richard Illges, Founder of Manschool

▶ FOCUS VERSES

He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow put in two mites. So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has out in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.

Luke 21: 1-4

▶ DISCUSSION

Richard says that money is an easy avenue to gain validation to prove that we have what it takes to be a man, to be “successful”.

- Do you feel this is true? Do we, as a society, use money to validate our self-worth?
- Share some specific examples.

Ask yourself, how often do you think about the next car you want or the next house or vacation? Verses how much time we spend in a relationship with Jesus.”

- Discuss.
- If you were to picture a scale, with one side representing your worldly focus on money and the other side representing the time you spend nurturing your relationship with Jesus, what would that scale look like?
- What should the scale look like?

The topic of tithing can be a sensitive subject. Richard says that for him personally giving away money/tithing has been the best counter to the temptation of making money an idol. By giving first, you are saying that money is a tool, not an idol.

- Are there any strategies you personally use to avoid making money an idol?

Money is just one category of charitable giving. What are other ways you give back charitably? Consider your special skills, talents, and special abilities.

Patrick shared a few questions that he uses on his retreats.

- Tell me something that you learned from your dad that was really good?
- Tell me something you learned from your dad that wasn't so good?



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