

Wesleyan's models of Economy: using John Sermon on the use of Money

Introduction

- ❖ My intention here is to sound the alarm and awaken the conscience of people in order to see injustice come to an end. It is not an attempt to judge anyone; rather, it is an attempt to incite awareness in the hopes that we would work to reform our unequal world.
- ❖ Can the Christian church do anything to solve the problem of worldwide poverty and the inequality of wealth distribution?
- ❖ Aside from foreign aid and the economic theories of supply and demand, is there a spiritual dimension to poverty?
- ❖ Is the Christian and the Christian church relevant to the eradication of poverty in the world today?
- ❖ The purpose of the church is not to have people come in and sit down. Rather, it is to go out and change cultures by establishing God's value system. Moreover, this includes God's value system regarding money and wealth.
- ❖ Being kingdom minded is what the apostle Paul calls being "transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:2).
- ❖ As a minister of the Gospel, it never crossed my mind I would ever need to know anything about finances.
- ❖ I was so wrong. Majority of the people I minister to have financial problems. I realized that as a minister I also had a responsibility to know about finances.
- ❖ Prayer is not the primary intervention in economic problems.

SOUTH AFRICA ECONOMIC CONTEXT

- ❖ *Poverty*
- ❖ *Unemployment*
- ❖ *Access to quality education*
- ❖ *Access to capital (white monopoly capital)*

- ❖ *Lack of innovation (creation mindset)*

SA has a history of creating economic giants every 50 years

SA economic history (150 years CNA, FBN, Standard bank, Goldfields, 100 years salaam, 50 years Shoprite, pick and pay)

The past 30 years there is a lack of creation instead we see a fall of state institutions

- ❖ *Implications: Mental issues (depression, stress, crime, drug, and substance abuse)*

What is Money?

- ❖ Money is a piece of paper or a coin. It is currency. It is not a person. It has never beaten or raped anyone.
- ❖ It is a medium of exchange. Just as a loaf of bread can be exchanged for a litre of milk, a R10 note can be exchanged to buy a loaf of bread or a litre of milk.
- ❖ A medium of exchange. It has no emotions. It is not made of a precious stone. It is a piece of paper or a coin.
- ❖ Money is neutral

The History and the evolution of Money

- ❖ *Bartering System (Product, Service Exchange)*
- ❖ *Gold System (Gold, Silver, Coins, Cards)*
- ❖ *Internet System (Technology- Apps)*
- ❖ *Blockchain System (FinTech, Bitcoin and Crypto currency, 4th IR)*

What Money is Today

- ❖ Today, what we know to be money is **fiat money**.
- ❖ What this means is that the value of the money is not derived by any intrinsic or commodity value.
- ❖ It also does not represent any commodity with intrinsic value. Its value is determined by government order.
- ❖ This means the money that we have does not have any value backing it. It's just a paper and coins that do not represent any gold and silver.
- ❖ This makes the money legal – and used as a unit of measure to be transferred for goods or services offered.
- ❖ Add to that, we now have mobile money... using cell phones, laptops, and apps to transfer money or make payments for goods and services.
- ❖ More innovative stores of value are being invented, with crypto-currency being the latest trend.

Financial management in the bible

1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

- ❖ Greed is a problem

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money

BECOME SET FREE FROM THE POWER OF MONEY

- ❖ Money has two effects on people: either it rules and controls, or it is mastered and controlled by its owner.
- ❖ Money has a way of possessing people
- ❖ Remember: either you master money or you serve it. Money is a good slave but a bad master.

Money as a servant

- ❖ We are not to be servants of money, for that is not our destiny. But to be masters of money.
- ❖ Money is merely a tool, a means by which we meet our needs and accomplish the purposes of God. We must learn to rule over money
- ❖ We must work for God while money is working for us
- ❖ We must make money so that we can serve God with our money
- ❖ We want to use it for God's purposes. There are only two options with money: either it serves you or you serve it.

The parable of the Talents : Matthew 25:14-30

- ❖ The Master owns the capital
- ❖ The servants are working for the master
- ❖ The two are able to grow the capital and buries the capital
- ❖ Who is the master and who are the servants?

The parable of the lost son (or prodigal son): Luke 15:14-32

- ❖ The father owns an estate
- ❖ An "estate" is a person's total assets and liabilities, especially after death
- ❖ *The other took his inheritance while the father was still alive and he chowed the money with women.*
- ❖ *I blow it...*
- ❖ *Money for us is black people is for spending*
- ❖ *Spending on liabilities instead of assets*
- ❖ *This is the reason why the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.*

God's economy

Exodus 12: 35- 36

35 The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. 36 The Lord had made the Egyptians favourably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so, they plundered the Egyptians.

- ❖ The children of Israel had worked very hard for a very long time in slavery and forced, unrewarded labour for that gold and silver.
- ❖ For several years, Pharaoh did not pay the Jews for their labour.
- ❖ They were working without compensation, so in this case, God was proving He is a God of justice.
- ❖ He would not allow the Israelites to leave Egypt without being compensated for their years of hard labour.
- ❖ Technically, this was a transfer of wealth on a very large scale,
- ❖ Israel's newfound wealth was amassed over the course of several centuries under Pharaoh's hand.
- ❖ They had built his temples and his cities and received nothing for their toil.
- ❖ The gold and silver were simply God's way of compensating the children of Israel for their services.

Exodus 16 :15-20

When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. 16 This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer[a] for each person you have in your tent.'"

17 The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. 18 And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed.

19 Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning."

20 However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.

Matthew 6: 9-13

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,^[a]
but deliver us from the evil one.^[b]

❖ *Our focus, according to this prayer, should be on earth, with "as it is in heaven" providing a model, not a destination.*

❖ *But what is this model being referred to by the phrase "as it is in heaven"?*

Verses 11-13 provides the "shape" of the God's economic hope for this world:

❖ *Give us this day our daily bread.*

❖ *And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

Ecclesiastes 11:1- 6

Invest in Many Ventures

- 11** Ship your grain across the sea;
after many days you may receive a return.
- ² Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight;
you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.
- ³ If clouds are full of water,
they pour rain on the earth.
Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where it falls, there it will lie.
- ⁴ Whoever watches the wind will not plant;
whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.
- ⁵ As you do not know the path of the wind,
or how the body is formed^a in a mother's womb,
so you cannot understand the work of God,
the Maker of all things.
- ⁶ Sow your seed in the morning,
and at evening let your hands not be idle,
for you do not know which will succeed,
whether this or that,
or whether both will do equally well.

- ❖ *v.1 King Solomon is giving us sound financial advices on investing. Invest Wisely*
- ❖ *Diversify our portfolio to protect assets entrusted us by God + ensure we are producing dividends*
- ❖ *v.2 unforeseeable circumstances such as unemployment, terminal illness, or market*
- ❖ *v.4 if you look for perfect time to invest, will ultimately result in a lack of action altogether*

Wesley's sermon

Introduction

- ❖ *The right use of money is important for the Christian*
- ❖ *Wealth has been regarded as a source of evil, yet the fault lies, not with money but those who use it.*
- ❖ *Money should be regarded as a gift of God and should be deployed to do Gods mission*
- ❖ *In the good hands money is good and in bad hands it is bad.*
- ❖ *Money is neutral. It reflects the one who is handling it.*
- ❖ *In the hands of Gods children, money is food to the hungry, clothing for the naked, and shelter for the stranger.*
- ❖ *With money we can take care of the widow and the fatherless, defend the oppressed, meet the need of those who are sick or in pain.*

In essence Wesley means your money must reflect your values and spirituality

Gods people must use their money for the glory of God. All the necessary instructions can be condensed into 3 simple rules:

- ❖ *Gain all you can*
- ❖ *Save all you can*
- ❖ *Give all you can*

Gain all you can

- ❖ *Not at the expense of health and life*

- ❖ *Not dangerous businesses*
- ❖ *If it is going to injure your mind don't do it*
- ❖ *If it is against God's law, then do it*
- ❖ *Gain all you can by Honest work with all diligence*

Save all you can

- ❖ *Don't waste money*
- ❖ *To be spend on unnecessary things*
- ❖ *Simplicity (lifestyle)*
- ❖ *Don't give your children more than what they need*
- ❖ *The rest should be distributed in order to bring glory to God*

God all you can

- ❖ *Having gained and saved all you can, then give all you can*
- ❖ *The own of resources is God and we are stewards. All belongs to him*
- ❖ *Meet your needs first and your household. If the is surplus, then you can give*

Did Wesley fail?

Wesley refers to this sermon and laments that Methodists have proven all too willing to gain and even save, but failed utterly to give with the same willingness

The aim of this discourse is to emphasize the necessity of giving to the poor

The end of gaining and saving is giving

The goal of diligence and frugality is the capacity to serve the poor

But the willful reader may say; "here are the three rules, and if I obey two... well, two out of the three ain't not bad"

Wesley will say that two out of three will make you "twofold more the children of hell" than you were before