

Sermon Series: Money: Friend or Foe?

6/15/25 “Heart,” Acts 4:36-5:12, MEV

INTRODUCTION Does the love of money afflict you?

“A man’s heart is closer to his wallet than anything else.”

—Billy Graham

MAIN IDEA: Be careful of your heart when you give. Why?

Here are 3 reasons.

I. First, because our heart can mislead us (5:3-4)

Heart: feelings. will, intellect (mind/will/emotions)

Jeremiah 17:9, MEV: The heart is more deceitful than all things and desperately wicked; who can understand it?

Proverbs 4:23, NLT: Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

A. it is **deceitful:** crooked, polluted

B. it can be corrupted by the love of money

1Timothy 6:10, MEV: For the love of money is the root of all [*all kinds*] of evil. While coveting after money, some have strayed from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

C. it can be influenced by Satan (5:3)

1. who tempts us to lust, use our emotions to turn us from God (*ex: fear, desiring praise*), lie to us (*no one will know, you have good intentions*)
2. we give him access by our sin (Eph. 4:27), not guarding our mind (1Peter 1:13), not being transformed by Word & Spirit (Rom. 12:2)
3. who can fill our heart with evil thoughts, plans (3)

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, because God will confront us about our heart (5:3, 8)

A. He knows what we do and why...*our heart, motives*

B. if we are in leadership, He will deal with us differently

1. Ananias (*head of wife, Eph. 5:23*), *punished*

2. Sapphira, *gave opportunity to repent*

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, because God will judge us

A. according to our heart

2Corinthians 9:7, MEV: Let every man give according to the purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful [*happy, glad*] giver.

1. our *real* intentions...*that He sees, that we might not see because of self-deception*

2. reflected by our actions (*A & S held back part, 5:3*)

kept part back: to embezzle, to keep back something that belongs to another (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*)

B. to discipline or punish (*liars are cast into the lake of fire—Revelation 22:15*)

C. to protect His church

1. against hypocrisy

2. against impurity

D. that He might bring revival (11-12)

1. judgment of His church precedes revival

2. judgment renews the fear of the Lord

3. judgment purifies for the Spirit’s move

ILLUSTRATION:

Application: Let us protect ourselves against self-deception.
(from *The Spirit-Filled Life Bible*)

1. Seek mutual accountability in a local congregation.

2. Constantly renew our mind (Romans 12:1-2, 2Cor. 10:4-5, Eph. 5:17-20) through the Word of God and sustained fullness of HS

CONCLUSION: I wasn’t aware that the love of money had afflicted me... GUARD YOUR HEART, examine it, ask God to

ALTAR: Repent of love of money? Turn life over to Jesus. Baptism