

# IF MONEY TALKED

## “The Consumption Assumption”

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**Scripture:** Luke 12:15

**Idea:** Your view of money may not align with God’s.

**Money:** I can add meaning to your life, but I’m not the meaning of life.

### Introduction

*[Talking about money makes people nervous. You may be excited about this topic. Or you may be here against your will.]*

We’re not going to talk **about money**. We’re going to **let money do the talking**.

*[Usually you’re the one telling your money what to do.*

- “Buy me some groceries.”
- “Pay the mortgage.”
- “Go into savings.”

*What if we allowed our money to talk to us? To pull up a chair and give us some advice?]*

What would our money say **if money talked**?

*[We probably wouldn’t be surprised. It would be common-sense advice. What might be surprising is the parallel between what our money would say and what Jesus did say.]*

*[Jesus said more about **money** than **heaven**. But he wasn’t after people’s money. He was after something else—their hearts.]*

What do you do with your **spare money**?

*[You do have spare/extra.*

- Vacation
- Car(s)
- Cell phone
- Kitchen renovation
- Financial planner

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*The reason you don't feel like you have extra is greed.]*

**Greed** is the **assumption** that it's all for **my consumption**.

*[Greed has nothing to do with an amount of money. It has everything to do with an assumption about money. You can spend all your money or you can hoard/save all your money. Either way, you're making the **consumption assumption**—assuming that every dollar that comes to you is meant for you to spend or save on you.]*

*[Jesus said that's a faulty assumption. He pointed to an entirely different way to view our money.]*

## **Luke 12:15**

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of **greed**; life does not consist in an **abundance of possessions**.”

*[It's so easy to fall into the trap of living as if life is nothing more than the accumulation of more. Yet, most of us are going to run out of time before we run out of money. And all the money we accumulate won't even be mentioned at our funerals.]*

If money talked, it would say, “I can **add meaning to your life** but I'm **not the meaning of life**.”

*[Money is not the meaning of life. It is a means—a tool—for doing something meaningful. What if when you had some to spare you asked how you could make it a means to something meaningful?]*

*[Financial assumptions\* (sometimes subconscious ones) govern the way you manage your personal finances. You should know what those assumptions are.]*

*\*See pages 12–14 of the If Money Talked workbook for examples.*

*[If all this talk about money makes you nervous, it shouldn't. No one who applies what Jesus said about money ever regrets it.]*

You can't be a **fully devoted follower of Christ** and not invite him into the realm of your **personal finances**.

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*[Maybe you've experienced the tension between feeling called (by God) to do something but not being able to do it because your finances are a mess—God on one side, American Express or your student loan or your car payment on the other.]*

*[Financial issues are spiritual issues because they reveal who's really in charge of your life—of who and whose you are.]*

PREVIEW