

YOUR LIFE IN THE **RED ZONE**

MONEY

REPLAY

It's been a hard day of practice. You're hot, sweaty, and tired. As you get ready for the showers, a teammate mentions he is thinking of transferring to another team. They approached him and offered him almost twice what he's making right now. He tells you they also need a player in your position. You think about it. Having that extra money would be nice, but coach has done a lot for you. This isn't the best paying gig you've had, but it certainly is the most rewarding. What about your family? If you have to pick up and move, will that cause strife at home?

GAME BOOK

Money causes way too many fights in a household. Whether you have too little or more than enough for your needs, our society conditions us to think we need more. So we go for more, at the expense of what is truly important. What does the Bible teach about money? Most people know Luke 16:13; "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." However, God teaches more about money than that.

* Proverbs 23:4-5 Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

* Proverbs 30:8b give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

* Philippians 4:11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

* Hebrews 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

It is a hard saying. We simply cannot follow Christ when money is our focus. I have known people who tried and became miserable. He said, "In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). Does Jesus mean us to sell everything we have? He certainly means for us to help those in need. The early church understood it that way (Acts 4:34,35). Certainly Jesus is not asking you to go into poverty but to hold so loosely to what you have that you don't care. Many early believers were blessed with possessions and used their blessing to bless others.

TAKE-AWAY

Just like everything else in life, money matters need balance. You have to provide for your family but not at the cost of your family life together. It is better to have peace and poverty in a home than riches and strife (Proverbs 15:17).

Sit down and look at your life. Are you spending too much time earning money and not enough time with your family? You may have to make some hard choices. You may have to give up some material goods that you planned to buy. You may have to get rid of things that you own that cost too much in upkeep. But you will trade those things for time with your family. God will look upon that giving and bless you for it.