

Feeding the Flock

Proclaiming Christ

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"I Don't Care about Making Money"

As a college student, I, along with many others, said those words and believed them to be true. What I pictured in my head was some insanely rich person with wads of money who felt compelled to trade in his or her year old Lexus and home entertainment system for the latest versions each year. My thought was "those things don't tempt me." Essentially, I was saying that I would be content with a non-top-of-the-line auto and decent entertainment center instead of the latest versions of those luxuries.

Only someone who had to keep ahead of the Joneses needed to "care about making money"—and that wasn't me. When Jesus says, "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" For the pagans run after all these things..." (Matthew 6:31-32a, NIV), I thought that I don't run after those things like the pagans. I've got contentment in the bag!

But as time has passed I have come to realize that what I mentally pictured failed to catch the gist of Jesus' saying. Because in this post-college life—a life not funded by unlimited college loans or marked by continual dining out—it turns out that the Joneses are all around us, passing us up left and right, not with luxuries no one cares about, but with things that used to seem essential and would seemingly make life so much easier. You may look around and see that most everyone else seems to have or do something that you simply cannot afford to have or do. The problem is not that you can't do things with as much comfort and style as desired but that you can't do them at all.

With a more accurate mental image, we find that we do care about "making money" because without it we can't even afford what some might consider the basics. But now, we are on par with the very pagans that Jesus was condemning. With this in perspective, Jesus' words become far more challenging. However, they end with a reassurance: "... and your heavenly Father knows that you need them" (Matthew 6:32b, NIV). What you truly need you can depend on the true giver of good gifts to provide in his time.

Ryan Jessup