

# Money Matters

## What About Lending Money?

By Zac Poonen, *Practical Discipleship*, (1999)

### ***What about lending money to those who want to borrow from us?***

I remember, when I was working in the Navy, a believer in our local church approached me one day for a loan. I knew that God's Word said, "*Give to him who asks of you and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you*" (Matt.5:42). The man told me that he would return the loan the very next month. So I gave him what he wanted. But the next month he could not return the loan and asked for some more. I earned a large salary, lived very simply and did not have a family. So I had plenty of money to spare. I gave him some more money - and once again the next month, when he asked me again.

A little later, this man backslid and began to drink and waste his money. When I saw that, I told him that if he had money to give to the devil like that, he might as well return my loan, so that I could give that money back to the Lord. He became very angry with me and told me that I was harassing him. So I stopped asking him to return my loan.

I then went to the Lord and asked Him where I had gone wrong. He showed me my mistake. The Lord told me, "You treated that money as if it were your own. It was actually Mine. You should have consulted Me before giving it, even as a loan."

If someone had given me ten thousand rupees to keep safely, and you, knowing about it, came and asked me for a loan from that money, I would have told you that I would have to ask the owner of the money before giving you the loan, for it was not my money. But I did not do that in the above case, because I did not recognise that my money was the Lord's. If I had actually forsaken all (to the Lord), as Jesus commanded (*Luke 14:33*), then I would have told that man that all that I had was the Lord's and that I had to consult the Lord about it. But instead, I mechanically obeyed the letter of Scripture and thus lost some of the Lord's money. Even the devil quoted a verse to Jesus once. I should have compared Scripture with Scripture.

We must certainly be willing to give to those in need, but we need to ask the Lord about it each time. We must live by "*every word that proceeds from God's mouth*". When we meet someone who is genuinely in need, if we seek the Lord, we will get a witness in our spirit as to whether to give him money or not. For all you know, the man asking you for help may be "a prodigal son" whom God is disciplining "among the pigs". If so, any money you give him will only *hinder* him from returning to the Father's house and not help him.

Zac Poonen, *Practical Discipleship*, Chapter Three: Discipleship and Money Matters,  
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