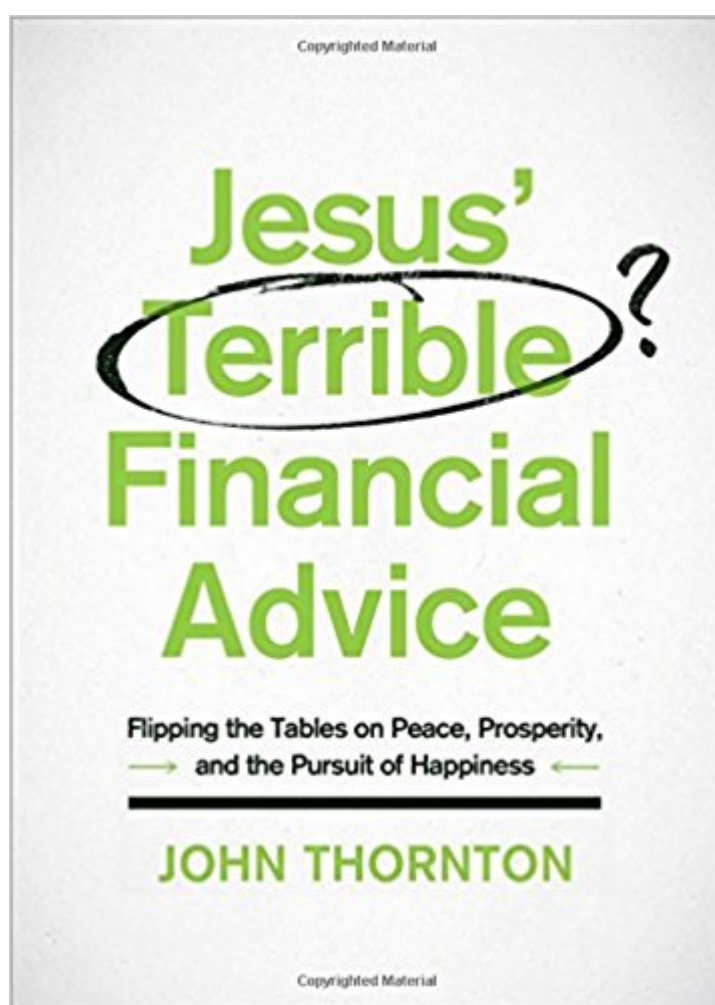


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# Jesus' Terrible Financial Advice: Flipping The Tables On Peace, Prosperity, And The Pursuit Of Happiness



## Synopsis

“Jesus’ advice ruined what I planned to write. It was the recipe for a great book. John and his wife—both financial experts—had cut their income by 80% to pursue more meaningful lives. Within six years they had two kids, were debt-free, went on several vacations, and doubled their net worth. John was ready to share the biblical principles that made this possible. But he couldn’t. After reviewing Scripture’s teaching on money—over 1,300 verses—he realized he had missed something big. Jesus’ Terrible Financial Advice turns even conventional Christian wisdom on its head. While it answers many of the practical questions we have—like does Jesus want me to be rich or poor? Should I give to everybody who asks? Is it wrong to save?—it goes beyond these concerns. It asks bigger questions, gives bolder answers, and offers a more comprehensive view of stewardship. Follow Jesus’ terrible (shocking, otherworldly) financial advice, and you’ll have what money can’t buy: purpose.”

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

DR. JOHN THORNTON is a CPA with a Ph.D. in Accounting from Washington State University. He is the L.P. and Bobbi Leung Chair of Accounting Ethics at Azusa Pacific University, a Christian university with over 10,000 students near Los Angeles, CA where he directs the School of Accounting. He is a nationally recognized author and speaker on accounting ethics and has served as Chair of the American Accounting Association’s Public Interest Section. His scholarship has been published in several top academic journals, winning multiple best paper awards from the AAA.

He is married to Alyssa with three sons, Joshua, Benjamin, and Jacob.

Every Christian Believer needs to read this book -- especially American Christians! Heck, everyone oughta read this book. It is the perfect title for so much financial advice experts give people (to include Christian experts) is not at all what Jesus said how we ought to approach money. Do you want to be challenged? Do you want to live wholly for Jesus? Read this book. This is a fast read. It is full of scripture and I believe John Thorton is right on target theologically. Great, great, great message.

This book is so good I re-read it, twice! This is a must read for every adult Christian.

A great read for those who would like a Biblical viewpoint of how God wants us to manage the resources that he has provided to us.

Wrestles honestly with the radical teachings of Jesus concerning money.

Our society runs mainly for gains and for profits. From balancing the budget to increasing annual revenues, organizations are constantly looking at ways to stay in the black. Public listed companies would use monetary devices to measure the profitability of a company. The key financial advice is to make more money. This is the default mode. Even non-profits like churches are on a constant lookout for funding and for donations to run their organizations. Here's the shocker. What many churches teach about money are often at odds with what Jesus teaches. In fact, the teachings of Jesus would rip apart our thinking; expose our lack of faith; and reveals our deepest fears. For Jesus has called us to turn the other cheek; to let others take our shirt as well; and to give to all who asks. Many of us prefer to take exceptions rather than wholehearted acceptance of such teachings. There are many reasons why. First, we tend to pay more attention to the idol of Money. In doing so, we become servants of Money. Second, many people had a mistaken assumption that God wants them to be materially rich. Jesus, on the other hand, asks us to sell all we have and to give all the proceeds to the poor. Isn't that incredible advice? We rationalize Jesus' words instead of taking it whole. The rich especially can be so comfortable with their material riches that they are less likely to seek God more. For them, deceitfulness of riches, the greed of the heart, and the unwitting acceptance of the power of money have damaged our spiritual sensitivity to Jesus. Gradually, the chapters move toward the need for generosity and giving. God made us to bless others, and to deal

with the real significance of Jesus' advice. What's 'terrible' about Jesus' advice? It depends on which angle we look at. If we adopt the ways of the world, the advice would seem most counter-cultural and difficult to accept. After all, it is an every-man-for-himself world. Yet, Jesus is asking us to take the road less traveled, that we can protect our hearts from greed, from self-centeredness, and from giving of ourselves to the god of Money. Following Christ is not simply a series of holy disciplines we do in Church; like prayer; Bible study; or outreach ministries. It is also about warring against any impediment that prevents us from moving closer to the heart of God. Following Jesus simply means giving up ourselves that we may obtain Christ. In surrender, we gain much more than we can ever imagine. It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving. We can never out-give God. That does not mean we do not need to give. The beauty of giving is how our souls are nourished and polished with a deeper spirituality that can only come when we learn to deny ourselves. The author ends with ten truths to turn 'terrible advice' to 'terrific advice.' Be like Jesus, whose chief aim is to glorify God. When we diligently obey Jesus' words, we become more like Him. Remember that Money steals God's glory. Anything that distracts us from God is leading us toward idolatry. We can never outplan God. Wisdom is more important than wealth. Be rich toward God. Getting Jesus is most profitable and priceless. God is the true Giver of all things. Practice hospitality; generosity; and forgiveness. This is another good book about stewardship and how we can use our material resources for the furtherance of God's kingdom. First we acknowledge how we are often so easily taken in by the enticement of Money. Second, we boldly embrace the teachings of God to be intentional about not becoming a slave to such an idol. Third, the closer we move to God, the clearer we are to a reward that is far better and more satisfying than Money. John Thornton is a CPA and also a professor with a PhD in Accounting. He has the credentials to teach about financial management and accounting advice. He also has the experience of chairing the American Accounting Association's Public Interest Section and has spoken on accounting ethics and money matters. He shares about how despite taking an 80% pay cut, his life has proven to be richer and more profitable in other ways. Rating: 4.5 stars of 5. This book is provided to me courtesy of Moody Publishers and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. All opinions offered above are mine unless otherwise stated or implied.

People who write arresting book titles are worth their weight in gold, well, maybe, gift cards. Bam! This book is my case in point: *Jesus' Terrible Financial Advice*, by John Thornton. How can you not open this book and jump in? Even though the author is a CPA, with a Ph.D. in accounting, and leads the School of Accounting at Azusa Pacific University, he confesses,

For over a dozen years, I stopped writing this book. I wanted to write with integrity, but I couldn't get past some of the terrible, or terrifying, things Jesus said. Above all, the one verse I couldn't get over was this: "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and love the other. You cannot serve both God and money" (Matt. 6:24). He shares his rationale for the intriguing book title: "Terrible. Webster defines terrible as "strongly repulsive," but also "very shocking and upsetting," and "formidable in nature." The root word is terror, from which we get terrific, terrifying, and terrible. I invite you to listen to Jesus' financial advice again, or for the first time, and see just how terrible it is. And with that context, Thornton crafts a brilliant and practical narrative of those hard sayings from Jesus that (ahem) we may prefer to ignore. After reading through the entire Bible, and highlighting every verse that addressed wealth, he began to categorize his list of 1,300 passages. It ran 115 typed pages (single-spaced, 12-point font!). The result: this lively and fairly short book, with lots of white space and call-outs, is perfectly balanced:--Ph.D./accountant-type theological insights (fresh!)--Laugh-out loud anecdotes and illustrations (funny!) Describing their early marriage years: "I was a CPA and Alyssa was an actuary (they specialize in the mathematics of probability). According to the Wall Street Journal, accountants invented actuaries, so there would be someone more boring than themselves. So we were the original fun couple. I've already read a bunch of pages to my wife, Joanne (she's very analytical, but not an actuary), and we both agree "this is one powerful, stop-you-in-your-tracks book. Examples:--His discussion of the continuum between the "Prosperity Theology" movement and "Poverty Is Piety Theology."--On the Ten Commandments, he asks, "So what is God's hang-up with idols?" His keeper response, "Like an insidious illusionist, an idol misdirects our attention to itself." In the chapter, "The Great Deception," he offers a two-part test to discern if you are deceived. So on page 82 (it's blank!), you can list up to 20 responses to "If money were no object, what would you buy?" Then | "Put a checkmark next to the things on your list that you think God will never give you." Thornton's punch-in-the-gut: "These are the areas where you are most vulnerable to being deceived and mastered by Money. Whew! There's more but I will stop writing now and start praying.

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