



# Marriage minute

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A marriage ministry of St. Andrew Lutheran Church

## Money

*“You cannot serve both God and Money.” Jesus Christ Matthew 6:21*

Jesus said, Pick one. But you can only pick one. You either serve God or you serve your money. Isn't that an interesting turn of the phrase? We usually think, “Oh, I want more money so that I can be served by it.” But Jesus said there are two options: YOU serve God or money.

How can you tell which one you're serving? Probably by what motivates your decisions about it; by what priority we show as we think about it or use it.

Money is a gift from God for us to use to achieve his goals for our lives. If you're married, one of his goals is that you use your money to serve each other. That means getting on the same page with your finance.

Foolishly spending money is the number one financial reason given for divorce. When a spouse feels the other spends money foolishly, it increases the likelihood of divorce by 45%. (Only affairs and drug/alcohol abuse were stronger predictors of divorce.) Conflict over money matters. Would you like to get on the same page about money?

Without showing your spouse, write the amount of money you can spend without first talking to your spouse about it. (I'll pause for 10 seconds while you write that number.) Now show your spouse.

Were there some gasps in the congregation?  
Raised eye-brows? Screams?

You've started the conversation, now continue. We've provided in the print version some activities for you to pursue to get on the same page with your finances.

- Privately, write three financial goals you'd like to attain in the next 6 months and three financial goals you'd like to attain in the next 5 years Don't show each other yet.
- When you compare what you've written, ask questions. Try to understand your spouse, not convince him/her. Take your time. That's how we serve one another and put the other first.

## Prayer

Giver of all, give us unity in our view of money and patience while we pursue it. Amen.

Pastor Randy Hunter  
St. Andrew Lead Pastor  
for Preaching and Vision