

# FOR THE LOVE OF GOD + -

## TREASURES ON EARTH: THE MEDIEVAL PAPACY AND ITS OPPONENTS

This segment comes from **EPISODE 3: RICH + POOR**.

From decadent medieval popes to modern televangelists with private jets, religion and money can make for an unsavoury mix. But why do we think of charity – care for the poor and the sick – as a good in the first place? The Graeco-Roman world didn't think so: they mostly thought the poor and suffering deserved what they got. It was Jewish thought, turbocharged by the teaching of Jesus, that transformed the way we think vulnerable people should be treated. This segment looks at how far the medieval papacy strayed from Jesus' teaching on money, and how one abbot protested this by giving all he had to the poor.



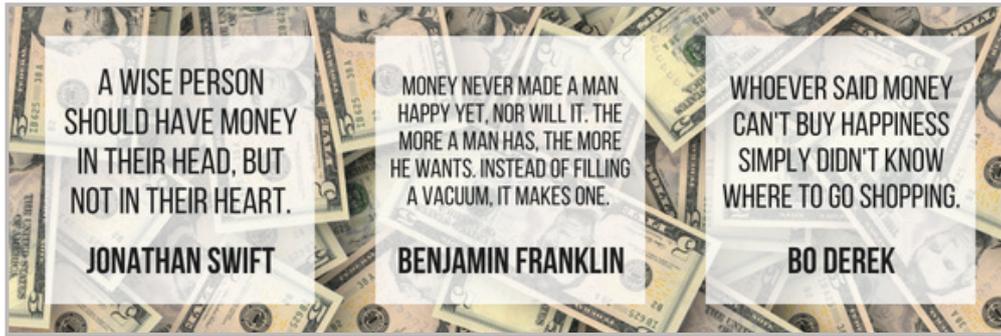
### THEME QUESTION

Which one of these images do you associate Christians with more? Why?



### ENGAGE

1. Read the following quotes about money, and discuss:
  - a. Which quote do you agree with the most? Why?
  - b. Which quote do you agree with the least? Why?



2. Write your own quote about money.
3. On this scale, plot how important you think money is to happiness.



4. Observe the following images and record your thinking in the following table.



I see...	I think...	I wonder...

**Notes on this thinking routine – SEE, THINK, WONDER**

- What do you **see**? Record only what's visible - try not to make judgements or predictions
- What do you **think** about that? What do you already know about this image? Can this give you any clues? Based on this knowledge, what assumptions can you make?
- What does it make you **wonder**? What questions do you have now? Think about what came before and what came after, what is outside of this image.

**Source:** <http://ergo.slv.vic.gov.au/teachers/generating-questions-see-think-wonder>  
More information on thinking routines can be found at <http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/>

## UNDERSTAND AND EVALUATE

1. Before watching the segment, define the words in this table to help you understand the key ideas in the video:

Word	Definition
Papacy	
Opulence	
Medieval	
Bishop	
Monk	



**WATCH** the segment: “Treasures on earth: the medieval papacy and its opponents”  
([cpx.video/popes](http://cpx.video/popes))

2. Jesus warned his followers not to “store up treasures on earth”.
  - a. What do you think he meant by this?
  - b. In what ways was the medieval church failing to reflect this ideal?

3. Read this quote from Petrarch, a scholar and poet in Renaissance Italy. In your own words, explain the contrast he has outlined.

*Here reign the successors  
of the poor fishermen of  
Galilee; they have strangely  
forgotten their origins. I am  
astounded, as I recall their  
predecessors, to see these  
men loaded with gold and  
clad in purple, boasting of  
the spoils of princes and  
nations; to see luxurious  
palaces and heights  
crowned with fortifications,  
instead of a boat turned  
downwards for shelter.*

- Petrarch



4. How did Odo feel about the decadent lifestyles of church leaders? What actions did he undertake as an individual in response to his feelings?
5. Role-play the events that occurred on Odo and John's journey through famine-stricken Siena, and answer the following questions:
- What strikes you about this account?
  - How was Odo's life a strong criticism of greedy churchmen?

## BIBLE FOCUS

### READ Matthew 6:19-21.

1. Complete the following sentences:
- Jesus says: do not ...
  - Jesus says: instead ...

2. Outline the main reason Jesus gives for not building up possessions on earth.
3. Explain two reasons, from the passage, why followers of Jesus should focus on “heavenly treasures”.
4. Do you think these teachings of Jesus make sense? Why or why not?

**READ 2 Corinthians 8:1-12.**

5. Outline three insights that this letter, from Paul to the Corinthian church, gives into what the early church was taught about money and generosity.

** APPLY**

1. Discuss the following statements:
  - a. “You can’t live in a huge house if you are really serious about following Jesus.”
  - b. “Christians shouldn’t spend any money on entertainment. They should give that money to the poor instead.”
  - c. “On the weekend, my train went past a church that was huge! It had a brand-new building that would’ve cost at least 2 million dollars to build. I just don’t think churches should be spending that kind of money.”
2. Draw a picture to describe what a modern-day Odo would look like.
3. In what ways have you seen Christians and Christian organisations live consistently with Jesus’ teachings of generosity and loving God, rather than money?

** EXTEND**

1. Read this article in The Telegraph - “[Pope Francis shuns papal apartment for Vatican guesthouse](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/2016/02/22/pope-francis-shuns-papal-apartment-for-vatican-guesthouse/)” ([cpx.video/francis](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/2016/02/22/pope-francis-shuns-papal-apartment-for-vatican-guesthouse/)) and write a paragraph response to each of the following questions:
  - a. How has Pope Francis responded to the wealth available to him as Pope?
  - b. What might this show us about Pope Francis’ character and values?