

## Week 4.

- Do you think the church should be involved in commercial activity?
- Read Matthew 22:15-22
- What was Jesus' attitude towards the currency of his day?

*The right use of money should spring from our appreciation of the graceful gift of abundant life we have received.*

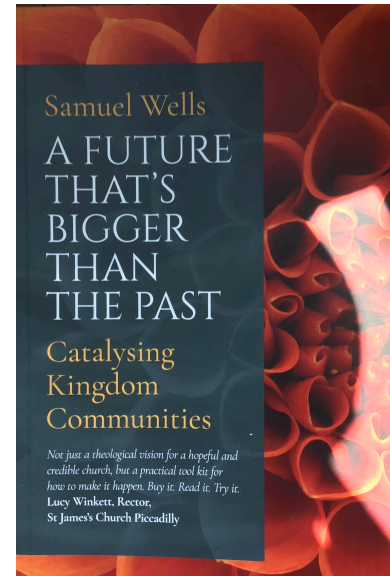
- Do you ever stop and consider how or what you invest your money in?

*'Church [should not be] just a tangible way to invest in God. It is a tangible way people invest in each other.'* (P.67)

- In the parable we have read, Jesus accepted local currency as an integral part of life.
- How might we invest in local people in our community?

*Some years ago St Martin's, began a creative commercial enterprise. As a result many more people have been touched by the church's life and the congregation has learnt much about Kingdom values and serving others. The commercial enterprise is now a microcosm of (London's) multicultural society, reaching many more people than ever before.*  
P.70

- How do you feel about this kind of venture?
- Close in prayer, thanking God for the financial resources we can use and the many ways in which we could invest in our local communities. Pray for the vision and imagination to create projects that could benefit and bless our town.



## Commerce

*Social commerce includes communication, relationship and interchange*

[Paraphrase from Penguin Thesaurus]

*Walter Brueggemann offers 6 ways in which to understand money & possessions.*

1. They are gifts from God.
2. A reward for obedience.
3. They belong to God & are held in trust by humanity in community.
4. Are sources of social injustice.
5. Are to be shared
6. Are seductions that can lead us away from God to idolatry.

[Sam Wells P. 69]

