

START^{NEW} FUNDRAISING LESSON 2

Reflection Exercise:

- 1 **Think about your own relationship with money - and, especially, about requesting gifts and donations from other people. Does that sound frightening? Or maybe it sounds exciting and prompts feelings of adventure! Does it make you angry or upset? Or does a feeling of comfort and ease come over you? Whatever your relationship with money, recognize that *everyone else* has some type of relationship with money as well. Importantly, when you talk to *them* about money, it will trigger something in their own relationship with money, too. And their relationship with money might be quite distinct from yours.**

Share your thoughts about your relationship with money:

- 2 ***Consider - and write down!***
What practice will work for you to keep yourself focused on serving the right master. Is it a quick prayer before speaking to people, like I do? Or perhaps it's doing a 'practice run' with a trusted coach or advisor before asking, like some people I know? Maybe it's finding time in scripture? There's no one right answer. The only *wrong* answer is to not hone-in on a practice that works for you.

- 3 **If you are uncertain about your own relationship with financial generosity, explore this with a spiritual guide or mentor in your life whom you trust for this type of exploration and conversation.**

Optional further reading:

Theologian Henri Nouwen shared once in a lecture, "Fund-raising is also always a call to conversion. And this call comes to both those who seek funds and those who have funds."

Years later, after Nouwen's passing, that lecture has been edited into book form, entitled, "[The Spirituality of Fundraising](#)". In it, Nouwen talks about our relationship with money - and how fundraising can, truly, be understood and experienced as a ministry. It's a powerful book, offering many lessons about our many relationships with money.