

“Price Tag” by Jessie J

We have finished our first quarter of songs. Classics from the top 100 of all time. Most were old, really old. Let’s review ...

“My Way” by Frank Sinatra	“Apologize” by One Republic	“Hotel California” by The Eagles
“Achy Breaky Heart” by Billy Ray Cyrus	“We are the Champions” by Queen	“You Light Up My Life” by Debbie Boone
“The Twist” by Chubby Checker	“Killing Me Softly” by Roberta Flack	“How Do I Live” by Leanne Rimes
“I want to hold your hand” by The Beatles	“Beat It” by Michael Jackson	“The Way We Were” by Barbara Streisand
“Free Bird” by Lynyrd Skynyrd		

For the next 13 weeks we’re getting contemporary ... grabbing songs from the last decade ... and asking “What would Jesus say about this song?”

- “Price Tag” by Jessie J
- “Bad Day” by Daniel Powter
- “Firework” by Katy Perry
- “Jesus Take the Wheel” by Carrie Underwood
- “Stronger” by Kelly Clarkson
- “The House that Built Me” by Miranda Lambert
- “Rolling in the Deep” by Adele
- “American Soldier” by Toby Keith
- “I was born this way” Lady Gaga
- “Call Me Maybe” Carly Rae Jepsen
- “Cinderella” by Steven Curtis Chapman
- “Beer for My Horses” by Toby Keith and Willie Nelson
- “We are never getting back together again” by Taylor Swift

Today’s song sets the stage for the next 12 ... you’d be shocked at some of the song titles and lyrics from the top 40 charts in the last decade. Some of them are nothing short of disgusting, filthy, and horrible. There was a five week period in one year where none of the song titles could be shown on T.V. It was almost a “race to the bottom” to see which artist or label could produce more vile garbage than the next.

Why? Filth sells. Remember when Elvis did his “hip thing” on the Ed Sullivan show? Outrageous, and it sold records. The Beatles ... rock -n- roll ... sold records. The problem is, just when you think you’re at the bottom (could it get any worse than this?) it does. The top 40 song from two weeks ago was shockingly vulgar ... and sold like hotcakes.

Let’s face it. Sin is popular! And sin produces filth ... Matthew 15:19-20 (MSG)
¹⁹ It's from the heart that we vomit up evil arguments, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, lies, and cussing. ²⁰ That's what pollutes.

Which brings us to today’s song ... a refreshingly honest assessment of today’s music culture. A cool thing today is one artist doing a song about another artist. Usually it’s an effort to bring the other artist down.

“Jessie J,” a British artist, did this song, “Price Tag” in which she asks this question of her fellow musicians: “Has this industry become so money-obsessed that we’ve forgotten the purpose of music in the first place?” She wants people to know that music should be about love and bringing people together, not about seeing how low you can go for another million dollars. I >applaud< her for that. Let’s look at what Jesus might say about “Price Tag.”

1. Following the crowd is a bad idea.

Luke 12:13-15, Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.” ¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” ¹⁵ Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

Okay, Coconut man, Moon Heads and pea. You ready?

Seems like everybody's got a price,
I wonder how they sleep at night.
When the sale comes first,
And the truth comes second,
Just stop for a minute and smile

Why is everybody so serious?
Acting so damn mysterious?
Got your shades on your eyes
And your heels so high
That you can't even have a good time

2. Success in life flows from God.

¹⁶ Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops.

¹⁷ He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’

And take the cash back
Just give me six strings and a half stack
And you can, can keep the cars
Leave me the garage, And all I, yes all I need
Are keys and guitars and guess what, in 30 seconds
I’m leaving to Mars, Yeah we leaving across
These undefeatable odds, It's like this man
You can't put a price on a life
We do this for the love

3. Learn that life isn’t about “more.”

¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. ¹⁹ And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’

It's not about the money, money, money
We don't need your money, money, money
We just wanna make the world dance,
Forget about the price tag
Ain't about the (uh) Cha-Ching Cha-Ching
Ain't about the (yeah) Ba-Bling Ba-Bling
Wanna make the world dance,
Forget about the price tag.

4. Real wealth comes from a rich relationship with God.

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ ²¹ “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

Why is everybody so obsessed? Money can't buy us happiness
Can we all slow down and enjoy right now. Guarantee we'll be feeling alright

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, make us truly wealthy! Teach us to manage well the resources You have given us. Make us a generous and thankful people. In Jesus' name, amen."