

# How Much a Dollar Cost

Kendrick Lamar

[Verse 1: Kendrick Lamar]

How much a dollar really cost?  
The question is detrimental, paralyzin' my thoughts  
Parasites in my stomach keep me with a good feeling, y'all  
Gotta see how I'm chillin' once I park this luxury car  
Hopping out feeling big as Mutombo  
20 on pump six dirty Marcellus called me Dumbo  
20 years ago, can't forget  
Now I can lend all my ear into how to stack these residuals  
Tenfold, the liberal concept of what men'll do  
20 on 6, he didn't hear me  
Indigenous African only spoke Zulu  
My American tongue was slurry  
Walked out the gas station  
A homeless man with a [?] tan complexion  
Asked me for ten grand  
Stressin' 'bout dry land  
Deep water, powder blue skies that crack open  
A piece of crack that he wanted, I knew he was smokin'  
He begged and pleaded  
Asked me to feed him twice, I didn't believe it  
Told him, "Beat it"  
Contributin' money just for his pipe, I couldn't see it  
He said, "My son, temptation is one thing that I've defeated  
Listen to me, I want a single bill from you  
Nothin' less, nothin' more  
I told him I ain't have it and closed my door  
Tell me how much a dollar cost

It's more to feed your mind  
Water, sun and love, the one you love  
All you need, the air you breathe

He's starin' at me in disbelief  
My temper is buildin', he's starin' at me, I grab my key  
He's starin' at me, I started my car and tried to leave  
And somethin' told me to keep it in park until I could see  
A reason why he was mad a stranger like I was supposed to save him  
Like I'm the reason he's homeless and askin' me for a favor  
He's starin' at me, his eyes followed me with no laser  
He's starin' at me, I notice that his stare is contagious  
Cause now I'm starin' back at him, feelin' some type of disrespect  
If I could throw a bat at him, it'd be aimin' at his neck  
I never understood someone beggin' for goods  
Askin' for handouts, takin' it if they could  
And this particular person just had it down pat  
Starin' at me for the longest until he finally asked  
Have you ever opened to Exodus 14?  
A humble man is all that we ever need  
Tell me how much a dollar cost

Guilt trippin' and feelin' resentment  
I never met a transient that demanded attention  
They got me frustrated, indecisive and power trippin'  
Sour emotions got me lookin' at the universe different  
I should distance myself, I should keep it relentless  
My selfishness is what got me here, who the f\*\*k I'm kiddin'?

So I'ma tell you like I told the last bum, crumbs and pennies  
I need all of mines, and I recognize this type of panhandlin' all the time  
I got better judgement, I know when niggas hustlin'  
Keep in mind, when I was strugglin', I did compromise  
Now I comprehend, I smell grandpa's old medicine  
Reekin' from your skin, moonshine and gin  
Cut your babblin', your words ain't flatterin', I'm imaginin'  
Denzel be lookin' at O'Neal  
Cause now I'm in sad thrills, your gimmick is mediocre, the jig is up  
I seen you from a mile away losin' focus  
And I'm insensitive, and I lack empathy  
You looked at me and said, "Your potential is bittersweet"  
I looked at him and said, "Every nickel is mines to keep"  
He looked at me and said, "Know the truth, it'll set you free  
You're lookin' at the messiah, the son of Jehova, the higher power  
The choir that spoke the word, the Holy Spirit, the nerve  
Of Nazareth, and I'll tell you just how much a dollar cost  
The price of having a spot in Heaven, embrace your loss, I am God"

I wash my hands, I said my grace, what more do you want from me?  
Tears of a clown, guess I'm not all what is meant to be  
Shades of grey will never change if I condone  
Turn this page, help me change, so right my wrongs