

Money – God or Gift? He’s Faithful – Don’t Worry

Luke 12:22-34

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, January 22, 2012

Four Ways to be the kind of generous giver that God calls us to be.

I. Recognize that Your Worry has Absolutely No Power to Cure a Money Problem but Great Power to Obscure Everything You Need to See and Know about Your God

Notice two things that Jesus highlights in Luke 12:

- 1) God is the ultimate source of provision for this entire creation...
- 2) God is your Father... not just some machine out there in the cold universe... and knows what you need.

Luke 12:25-26 “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?”

Luke 12:30 “... your Father knows that you need these things.”

II. Recognize that Your Giving is Ultimately the Only Sound Financial Investment You’ll Ever Make in This Life

Matthew 6:19-20 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Malachi 3:8-11 “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and **prove Me now** in this, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, says the Lord of hosts.”

III. Recognize that a Giving Problem is Really a Heart Problem that Runs Far Deeper than Your Wallet

The heart and money are SO connected in the Bible! What you see in the Bible is that the direction your money’s going **now** is the direction your heart will be pointed **soon**.

Luke 12:34 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

“Suppose you buy shares of General Motors. What happens? You suddenly develop interest in GM. You check the financial pages. You see a magazine article about GM and read every word, even though a month ago you would have passed right over it. As surely as the compass needle follows north, your heart will follow your treasure.

Do you wish you cared more about eternal things? Then reallocate some of your money, maybe most of your money, from temporal things to eternal things. Watch what happens.” *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn, p. 42-43

IV. Be Honest about Your Excuses

- “I need to save money before I can start giving.”

If you're not careful, when the economy sags your idol can shift from rash spending to fearful, selfish hoarding. So you don't want to swing from one extreme to the other. Both are bad.

- “I want to give, but I just keep forgetting.”

Proverbs 3:9-10 “Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

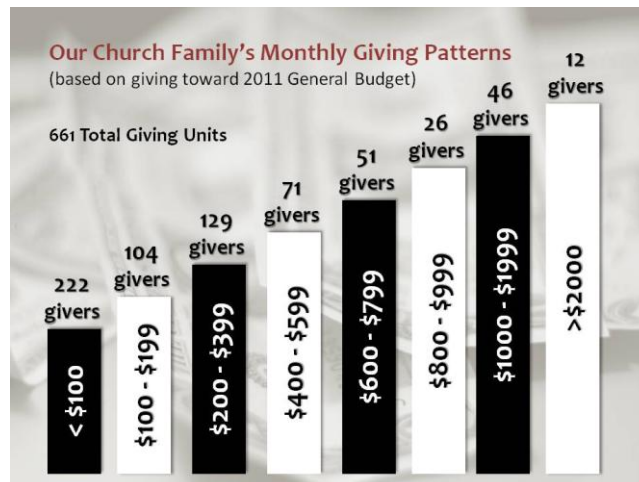
- “Churches are all about money.”
- “I give to other charities and the ‘church’ quote at large.”
- “I can't give – I'm single and a poor college student.”

The time to start obeying God with your money is always TODAY. Don't wait.

Homework

From last week:

1. Right now write down what % of your income you think you gave away this past year by investing in the church and kingdom business?
2. Have you figured out the ACTUAL FIGURES – and do you know what you really gave away this past year?
3. Have you found yourself on the giving chart... and are you making plans to grow or increase your giving?



For this week:

4. Go to the website and set up an EFT (electronic funds transfer) this year for your church giving
 5. Share with one other person what your plans are and how you want to give this year – and ask them to hold you accountable and ask you about it.
- Are you worshipping God with your money... or are you worshipping money as your god? There's a big difference... and this year is a great time to make a change, if you're going in the wrong direction.