

Luke

See Jesus

He's Coming – Be Ready

Luke 12:32-49

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / April 10, 2022

Two ways you can prepare for the final judgment day:

I. Start Using Your Money Now the Way You'll Wish You'd Used it When You Stand Before Christ

We should be handling our money with a sense of expectation that the Master could return any moment.

Jesus wants to make absolutely clear that we're in a "Master-Servant" relationship when it comes to our stuff. Jesus uses the word "Master" 8 times in 12 verses.

There's a sense of expectation and accountability in these verses:

v. 35 "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning."

v. 36 "...be like men who are waiting for their master..."

v. 37 talks about staying "awake" or alert to what matters most

v. 40 commands us to "be ready"

Luke 12:47 "And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating."

Ephesians 5:3 "But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints."

"What if He returned while you are watching a porn site's 'live show'? Wouldn't you be ashamed? But suppose He found us not at a porn show, but at a fashion show. Suppose He found us lusting after designer jeans or the latest fashion in evening gowns. Suppose He found us in an atmosphere of materialism, greed, and snobbery. Is this a better theater? Are these more godly lusts? Even though the clothes are on instead of off, is the whole show much less obscene?

~ Cornelius Plantinga, *Beyond Doubt*

II. Don't Forget that Everything You Have is a "Given" Not a "Gotten"

Luke 12:45-46 "But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, ⁴⁶the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful."

If you need to make a change, make a plan. Think through your finances and put together a budget so that you can tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went!

A. Budget for Judgment Day

The difference between a dream and a goal is a plan. A plan takes your desired future and turns it into reasonable, specific, and measurable steps that you can start working through to get there.

God's not against you making plans as long as you hold those plans loosely in your hands and recognize that He's sovereign over everything.

Proverbs 16:9 "The heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

Proverbs 6:6-8 “Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. ⁷ Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, ⁸ she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.”

B. Budget for God’s Glory

Setting up a budget is one of the most freeing things you could ever do for your money and you should think of it as an act of worship instead of a punishment.

“Building a financial plan requires contemplation of all that God has given us—and regardless of our wealth, He has been exceedingly generous. We respond to His grace and goodness not only in song and in prayer. We can also glorify God with a life lived according to His Lordship, choosing to follow and honor Him rather than running after the money god and tumbling headlong into financial slavery.”

~ Jamie Munson, *Money: God or Gift*

By living on a budget, you’re saying, “God, I’m serious about taking good care of Your money and I want to be ready to stand before You on that final day.”

The 6 Best Budgeting Apps of 2022

- Best Overall: You Need a Budget (YNAB)
- Best Free Budgeting App: Mint
- Best for Cash Flow: Simplifi by Quicken
- Best for Overspenders: PocketGuard
- Best for Building Wealth: Personal Capital
- Best for Couples: Zeta

C. Budget for Your Own Sanity and Financial Peace

“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over, and expecting different results.”

~ Albert Einstein

Some of you keep using your money the same way year after year and keep hoping for different results, but you won’t get different results until you put together a different plan.

D. Budget for Every Season of Life

- **Parents** – Teach your kids to divide their money into 3 categories: Give (10%) Save (50%) and Spend (40%).
- **Teenagers** – Don’t wait until you have “real” money to start budgeting and giving. Form the habit now!
- **Singles** – Set up sacrificial giving patterns now and don’t rack up debt. Start firing in on paying down school debt. Don’t sink all your money into an expensive car or trips.
- **Married Couples** –
 - Don’t wait to get started. Ask for help putting together a budget from the first day of your marriage.
 - Don’t keep financial secrets from each other. Financial secrets lead to a disaster and can destroy a marriage. Be 100% honest about your debt and your spending habits so you can work together.
 - Both of you need to know what your debt is, what your budget is, what you’re giving, and what you’re spending so that you can work together towards your financial goals.
- **Middle of Life and Older** – Recognize your financial wealth should be used to help fund ministry and kingdom business, not just to pad your life and raise your standard of living. Don’t leave it all to the kids to spend on themselves. Prayerfully invest some of it in God’s work around the world.

Giving Covenant

1. I affirm God's full ownership of me (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and everything entrusted to me (Psalm 24:1). I recognize that my money and possessions are in fact His. I'm His money manager, His delivery person. I will ask Him what He wants me to do with His money.
2. I will set aside the money, right off the top – shooting for at least 10%, of all I receive, treating it as holy and belonging exclusively to the Lord. I do this in obedience to Him, desiring His blessing (Malachi 3:6-12). By faith I take God up on His challenge to test Him in this. (“...put Me to the test, says the LORD of hosts” Malachi 3:10)
3. I ask God to teach me to give sacrificially to His purposes, including helping the poor and reaching the lost. I commit myself to avoiding indebtedness so that I don't tie up His funds and can therefore feel greater freedom to follow the Spirit's promptings to give.
4. Recognizing that I cannot take earthly treasures from this world, I determine to lay them up as heavenly treasures for Christ's glory and the eternal good of others and myself. Affirming that heaven, not earth, is my home and Christ is my Lord, I commit myself to use money for His glory and the furtherance of His kingdom.

Name _____ **Date** _____

At End of 2021

