

Beyond Blessed week 2; 10/5-6/2019 - Stewardship

INTRO:

Welcome to everyone attending at all of our locations (FTL, ETL, BSL)
- So glad that you are with us this weekend for Week 2 of Beyond Blessed

ME:

ILLUS: (Beanie Babies)

- We've all done stupid stuff with money! I've done so many stupid things, too many to count.

WE:

Ground rules for our time together:

1.) I don't want us to feel any guilt as we talk about this because money is a really emotional topic; if you find yourself going, "Oh that was stupid!" just look at the Beanie Baby

2.) I also don't want to give us a spiritual Snuggie to curl up in. (I think the Lord is going to push on some of our hearts this weekend in a big way)

"Why are we talking about money at church?"

***** According to Jesus, money is one of the most visible measurements of the condition of your heart.**

Matt 6 is Jesus' first ever public sermon (and it's a long one) and he spends 15 verses talking about money

Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

How do we know if we love money?

- Right now as I'm talking, you're starting to become angry, b/c the Holy Spirit is performing heart surgery on you without anesthesia and it hurts when the idol gets ripped from your heart.

- For some of us, He wants to come strong after our hearts this weekend

***** That's why we're talking about money in church.**

Most of us, have to work for money.

- And if more money would help life not be so overwhelming, then most of us think, there isn't much hope b/c how could we possibly work more than we currently work?

- If we stop and think about it. there's two ways to make money:

***** You can work for money or you can have your money work for you. (by having it BLESSED)**

How many of you want your finances to be blessed?

- WE ALL DO!

-If we want God's blessing on our finances, then we have to learn to handle our finances the way God teaches us

*****The Bible word for this idea is called "Stewardship"**

GOD:

***** We're going to spend some time in a passage that teaches the Principle of "Stewardship"**

ILLUS: get your Bible and try to keep up! chubby boy through a fence

Matthew 25:14-18 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants^[d] and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents,^[d] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

- notice some of Jesus' wording: "entrusted", "His property", "His servants"
- God is very possessive

Psalms 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it

*****The first step in Stewardship is understanding that everything we have is from God**

- just like the servants in Jesus' parable

DEF Stewardship" is the act of managing the possessions of another

Illus: Bags of gold in Greek was Talents

- 5 Talents, 2 Talents, 1 Talent
 - back then, a talent was worth about 20 years of a workers wages
 - Roman talent = 71 pounds of gold
- Today, @\$1500 per oz = \$8.5m \$3.4m or \$1.7m dollars
- *** IOW, he has entrusted ALL of us with so much**

Think about that, consider the honor: God has entrusted you with managing some of His possessions.

Here's why Stewardship matters:

***** We live in a world where people are financially Overwhelmed (not blessed)**

ILLUS: Stats

- Avg household CC debt is over \$16,000
- Avg household debt is over \$130,000 (avg household income is half of that \$61,000)

We're Overwhelmed (not blessed, we're CURSED)

B/C - we are choosing to NOT align our finances according to God's word
(IOW Poor Stewardship)

4 Priorities of Biblical Stewardship:

1.) Tithing (DEF: first 10%)

READ: Malachi 3:10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

ILLUS: You don't walk around feeling good that you didn't steal from FPL this month right?

***** If could challenge you today:**

- If you call Jesus "Lord" but don't tithe, it means that you have trusted God to be faithful with your eternity but not your water bill.

The tithe is a choice:

***** God offers us a choice: Live off 90% and all of it blessed (redeemed and protected), or keep 100% and all of it cursed**

2.) Being Generous

Psalm 37:21 - the righteous give generously

Acts 20:35 - In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.

- the words of Jesus are quoted by Paul: "it's more blessed to give than to receive"

******* Jesus said true blessing in life comes not from what we hold onto, but from what we let go of

3.) Living debt free

Hebrews 13:5 **Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have**

***** Living debt free isn't an issue of how much you make, it's an issue of how much you spend.**

- Don't have an income problem—lifestyle problem—spiritual problem.

- Spiritual problem: we are trying to find meaning in the things of this world.

- The reality is, most of us don't need more money what we need is more Jesus.

Proverbs 22:7 - the borrower is slave to the lender

- According to the statistics, we have got this one backwards

4.) Saving

Proverbs 21:20 **The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down.**

Proverbs 30:24-25 **Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer;**

Ecclesiastes 11:2 Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.

Proverbs 13:16 A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't, and even brags about it!

***** God doesn't want anything from you, He just doesn't want anything between you and Him
Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

***** Not only does he not WANT anything from you, he doesn't NEED anything from you.
Psalm 50:12 TPT - If I were hungry, do you think I would tell you? For all that I have created, the fullness of the earth, is mine. Am I fed by your sacrifices? Of course not!**

There is a better way

YOU:

So what do you do? How do you live out these 4 Biblical Priorities of Financial Stewardship?
- it takes a commitment to **3 Essential, Biblical Values** (especially if some of those debts statistics relate to you)

3 Essential, Biblical Values

If you're going to live out Biblical Stewardship you are going to have to Embrace the value of:

1.) Self Control

Proverbs 25:28 A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

ILLUS: Arianna at any store will find a stuffed animal for sale

Everybody say "no"!

2.) Sacrifice

- this is the most common theme throughout scripture

Hebrews 12:2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

***** Sacrifice: giving up something you love for something you love even more.**

ILLUS: Save \$82k by brown-bagging lunch over a lifetime of working (spending \$3 to pack vs \$10 to eat out over 45 years)

- you don't have to go all in, what if you did it 50% of the time?

ILLUS: Don't miss the power of this illustration and how different your life can be 10-20 years down the road

BUT WOULDN'T YOU LOVE MORE TO LIVE UNDER A COVER OF FINANCIAL BLESSING and not feeling cursed/overwhelmed??

Embrace the value of Self control, Sacrifice and

3.) Planning

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

***** You might have wandered into financial distress, but you can't wander out.**

***** Failure to plan is the same as planning to fail**

Additional Resources: www.nextlevelchurch.com/beyondblessed

Matt 25:19 - "after a long time, the master returned and settled accounts with them".

- You're going to stand in front of God one day and accounts will be settled.

- What did you do with what he trusted you with?

-Summarize the parable

ILLUS: Pet peeves (list some funny ones)

***** What if it's true that God removes from us what we don't steward according to his purposes?**

What brings the master joy?

- The two guys that didn't waste what He'd given to them.

- The guys who said, starting now, I will STEWARD (obey, honor and follow you) and who were blessed as a result.

ILLUS: Hearing my son LJ laugh, giggles that lead to a belly laugh.

Challenge you:

If we're Christians: We don't serve money as we serve God. Money serves us as we serve God.

BIG PICTURE:

How much of a difference could living like this make in your family (the blessing and joy)?

- how much impact could you have in the world with that kind of resource?

PRAY & Close