



THE PURPOSE THE PLAN

ABIBLICAL APPROACH TO FINANCES

THE TEST
THE BLESSING



THE PURPOSE



For the week of March 3, 2023 Series: Money Madness - Week 1

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REVIEW

We kicked off a new series "Money Madness" looking at The Purpose. Money, we all need it, we all use it, and we all generally wish we had more. We can get caught up in it or get caught off guard by it, and yet when it comes to talking about this vitally important topic, we often get squeamish, especially when we talk about it in church. This week we learnt that the Bible talks a-lot about money and finances and we see that Jesus comes to give us a full life in every area of our lives as we surrender and trust in him, even in our finances. There are many lessons that we need to learn about money, and over these 4 weeks you will feel better equipped to use the money God has entrusted you in a wise way.

1. What's the hardest thing about money for you; making it, spending it, or saving it?
2. Pastor Michael outlined 4 things not to do with money, which of these things can you relate to the most? Don't <u>waste</u> money, don't <u>love</u> money, don't <u>trust</u> money and don't look for <u>satisfaction</u> in money.
3. Were your views of money learned at a young age or learned as you matured?
DIGGING DEEPER
Read Luke 16:1-13
1. In this story, Jesus is speaking about the principle of being a good steward (manager). Why do you think we should learn from Jesus using a negative example of stewardship instead of a positive one?

2. Have you ever had a negative example, teach you a positive lesson? What was it, and what did you learn?
3. When it comes to the Kingdom of God, everything belongs to him, and we have the responsibility to steward over what we have for a time. What are some things in
your life that you are holding on too tightly? What do you need to give back to God?
4. Read Matthew 6:19-24 & Luke 16:13. Jesus is saying that we cannot follow two different leaders. Why do you think Jesus says this about the relationship between money and God?
5. Read Matthew 6:31- 34. If we understand God's Kingdom as his will and way, how would you put this passage in your own words? What is the difference between "Me First Living" and "Kingdom First Living?"

TAKE IT HOME

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it..." Psalm 24:1 (NIV)



THE PLAN



For the week of March 10, 2023 Series: Money Madness - Week 2

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REVIEW

We are in week 2 of "Money Madness". This week Pastor Trevor talked about how God cares about our relationship with money. He cares about it's ability to affect our joy, our peace and our relationships. He knows how quickly we can go from living lives where we USE money and LOVE people to living lives where we LOVE money and USE people. When we find ourselves in that place it becomes destructive to our lives. All through scripture God guides us and warns us to walk carefully with money. We are called to manage the resources that God entrusts to us. We do this by Looking Ahead, Having A Plan and Taking Action.

1. In his different parables, Jesus warned us a lot about money & possessions becoming an idol. In fact, he talked more about such things than even Heaven and Hell. Why do you think that is?
2. Do you have any advice, or tools that you use to help you manage your finances?
DIGGING DEEPER
1. Read Luke 16:3 and Proverbs 14:8. What do you think the bible is telling us that that a wise person looks ahead? Have you ever had a situation where you have had to look ahead? How did it work out for you?
2. Read Proverbs 22:7. How might being a "slave to our lenders" impact our lives, relationships, family, work?

3. Read Luke 12:13-21. What jumps out at you from this passage?
4. Re-read Luke 12:15. What, beside money and/or possessions, could fall into the category of "all kinds of greed?" Is there something that you, personally, must be on your guard against becoming to greedy with or even hoarding? How could that thing be used to be "rich toward God" (vs21)?
5. Money is a horrible idol to serve & an awful master to give your life to. Reflecting upon that statement, what does it look like when someone falls victim to serving money & allowing it to be their master (what are the symptoms)? Describe if & how you personally have struggled with serving money or allowing it to be your master at some point in your life?
6. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. In what ways can this passage correct our perspective regarding how we are to view & handle money? What is the opposite of "contentment"?

7. If God is owner and you are manager, do you feel you have a right to be discontent? Why or why not? Focusing on verse 10, does money itself "lead to many sorrows"? If not, what does?
TAKE IT HOME
1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What does the living out of being a manager of anything God loans to you practically look like? Share specific examples of some things you have done this well with and some things that you have yet to do this well with.
3. What ACTION do you need to take today so that you can become a good manager?

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV)

RESOURCES

- Monthly Budget Worksheet See Next Page
- The Total Money Makeover: A Proven Plan for Financial Fitness by Dave Ramsey
- Managing God's Money: A Biblical Guide by Randy Alcorn
- The Blessed Life by Robert Morris



MONTHLY BUDGET WORKSHEET

MONTHLY INCOME	INSURANCE PREMIUMS	PETS
	(IF NOT DEDUCTED FROM PAY)	FOOD
INCOME 1	LIFE	VET/PRESCRIPTIONS
NCOME 2	DISABILITY	GROOMING
HOBBY INCOME	HEALTH	BOARDING/OTHER CARE
NTEREST INCOME	DENTAL	
INVESTMENT INCOME	VISION	
CHILD SUPPORT/ALIMONY	LONG-TERM CARE	ENTERTAINMENT
EXTRA MONEY	OTHER	STREAMING SERVICES
		OTHER SUBSCRIPTIONS
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME		HOBBIES
	BANKING	SPENDING MONEY
MONTHLY EVENICES	BANKING FEES	MOVIES
MONTHLY EXPENSES	SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX	CONCERTS & SPORTS GAMES
		OTHER
HOME		
MORTGAGE/RENT	DEBT REPAYMENTS	
SECOND MORTGAGE	CREDIT CARD 1	GIVING
TAXES & INSURANCE	CREDIT CARD 2	TITHES
REPAIRS/IMPROVEMENTS	CREDIT CARD 3	CHARITABLE DONATIONS
ASSOCIATION FEES	CREDIT CARD 4	GIFTS
	STUDENT LOANS	
	OTHER LOANS	
JTILITIES	<u> </u>	GOALS
ELECTRIC		SAVINGS GOAL 1
GAS	FOOD	SAVINGS GOAL 2
WATER	GROCERIES	SAVINGS GOAL 3
PHONE (LANDLINE)	EATING OUT	EXTRA DEBT PAY DOWN
PHONE (MOBILE)		EMERGENCY FUND
TV (CABLE)		TRAVEL/VACATION
INTERNET	FAMILY EXPENSES	EDUCATION
	CHILD CARE	RETIREMENT
	SCHOOL TUITION/FEES	OTHER
HOUSEHOLD UPKEEP	ACTIVITIES/LESSONS	
CLEANING SUPPLIES	ALLOWANCES	
LAWN CARE	CHILD SUPPORT	OTHER
PEST CONTROL	ALIMONY	
OTHER (Batteries, light bulbs, etc.)	OTHER	_
JITEN (Batteries, light balbs, etc.)	OTTEN	
TRANSPORTATION	PERSONAL CARE	<u> </u>
CAR PAYMENT 1	HAIRCUTS	
CAR PAYMENT 2	PRESCRIPTIONS	
GAS	MEDICATIONS	
INSURANCE	TOILETRIES/MAKEUP	
REPAIRS	CLOTHING	
OTHER (Bus, Uber, Parking, etc.)	GYM MEMBERSHIP	
	MEDICAL/DENTAL BILLS	TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES



THE TEST



For the week of March 17, 2023 Series: Money Madness - Week 3

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REVIEW

Some people talk about money all the time; for others, you wonder if they even know it exists. Jesus talked about money a lot. In fact, in 11 of his 39 parables, Jesus discussed money. That's over 28% of the time.

Regardless of whether these conversations are similar to your current practices, challenge your perspectives, or even push you out of your comfort zone, engaging with these topics is bound to be a journey filled with valuable insights and opportunities for personal growth. The discussions you embark on today are a potent reminder that the matter of money is not just of temporal significance but carries deep spiritual implications. By delving into this subject, we open ourselves up to a journey towards greater freedom and more faithful stewardship.

1. Share a personal experience when you decided to tithe or give financially to the church. What motivated that decision?
2. Have you ever struggled with the concept of tithing? What were your main concerns or obstacles?
3. How has your understanding of stewardship and generosity evolved over time? Can you identify a pivotal moment or teaching that influenced your perspective?
DIGGING DEEPER
Read Mark 12:41-44, Malachi 3:10, and 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
1. Read Malachi 3:10. What does this verse suggest about God's view on tithing? How do you interpret the promise of "pouring out a blessing"?

2. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Paul talks about cheerful giving. How does this passage expand our understanding of tithing or giving beyond the Old Testament context?
3. Tithing is often seen as giving 10% of one's income. How do you reconcile this practice with the New Testament teachings on giving? Are there examples in the New Testament that support a specific approach to tithing?
4. How do you think tithing benefits the individual giver, the church, and the wider community?
5. Read Matthew 6:19-21, where Jesus talks about treasures in heaven versus treasures on earth. How does this teaching relate to the concept of tithing and our attitudes towards money and possessions?

6. In Acts 2:44-45 and Acts 4:32-35, we see the early church sharing everything they had. How do these examples of communal generosity inform our understanding of tithing and financial stewardship in the modern church?
7. Proverbs 3:9-10 instructs us to honour the Lord with our wealth and with the first fruits of all our produce. What does it mean to give God the "first fruits" of our income in today's context? How can this principle shape our approach to managing finances?
8. Tithing and offering are often used interchangeably, but they have different implications. Based on biblical teachings, how would you differentiate between a tithe and an offering? Is one more important than the other?
9. The widow's offering in Mark 12:41-44 is a powerful example of sacrificial giving. What lessons can we learn from her action? How does this impact your thoughts or the amount versus the attitude in giving?

TAKE IT HOME

Reflecting on today's discussion and the Bible passages we've explored, what is one step you feel called to take in your practice of giving or tithing?
2. How can we support each other in our group to grow in generosity and faithfulnes in tithing and giving?
3. What practical actions can we take as a group and individually to demonstrate our commitment to stewardship and generosity in our church or community?

" For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Luke 12:34 (ESV)



THE BLESSING



For the week of March 24, 2023 Series: Money Madness - Week 4

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REVIEW

Wrapping up our series, "Money Madness", we see we need to focus on relying on God's promises over pursuing prosperity. We need to reject the Prosperity Gospel's promises of wealth through faith and giving. God's promises highlight that an abundant life involves more than material wealth, it encompasses relationships and spiritual fulfilment. We need to be careful we are not giving so that we receive, and careful to not associate financial success with spiritual fulfilment. Scripture warns against serving "mammon" (wealth or money) instead of God. Pastor Michael's sermon, urges a shift towards using money for God's purpose and investing in eternal treasures rather than temporary wealth.

1. What do you think it means to be prosperous?
2. Sometimes we make God smaller and our possessions greater. What is something in your life that you are making greater than God?
3. Abundance is so much more than possessions. What does abundance look like in your life?
4. What are some of the misconceptions you see surrounding the Prosperity Gospel

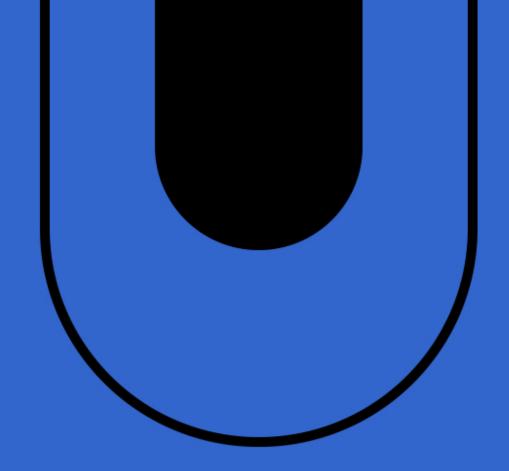
DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Proverbs 10:22. God wants to bless his children through their finances so that they have the resources to carry out his plan for their lives. How has God blessed you financially to impact his kingdom?
2. What are some misconceptions about being wealthy as a Christian?
3. Read Matthew 6:24. Pastor Michael talked about Mammon (Wealth or Money) trying to own you and be your security. How can you flip the script so that God is your true owner and security?
4. Read John 3:16. Sometimes our giving is attached to our getting. What is something so precious to you that you would be willing to give to God without expecting God to give you anything in return?

5. Thinking about that precious thing to you, how has holding on to it affected your relationship with God?
TAKE IT HOME
How do you think you can leverage your money for God's purpose?
2. How can you lay up treasures in heaven rather than solely focus on earthly possessions that decay?
3. How do you recognize and combat the spirit of selfishness or control that can be associated with money?

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV



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