

Starting Right: A biblical mindset about money

Money and possessions Bible 101

I. Starting Right – Five key questions

- a. Are we faithful in how we handle money?
 - i. Luke 16:10-11 a faithful steward
 - ii. Principle: we miss opportunities because we failed to use money wisely.
- b. Is money really important to God
 - i. Matt. 19:16-25 – how does young man see money?
 - ii. Luke 19:8-9 – how does God see money?
 - iii. Principle: If Christ is not Lord over our money and possessions, He is not our Lord.
- c. Why so much biblical emphasis on money and possessions?
 - i. Luke 3:7-14 – Repentance and resources
 - ii. Acts 19:18-20 – Supernatural experiences produce supernatural responses
 - iii. Principle: The Holy Spirit helps us see our sins and our stuff in right perspective
- d. Isn't what we do with our money our own business?
 - i. Mark 12:41-44 – Jesus watches what we give in the offering
 - ii. Luke 12:16-22 – God watches what we do with our resources outside of church
 - iii. Principle: As owner of all God cares about what we do with His possessions.
- e. What questions will we one day have to answer?
 - i. Romans 14:12 – we are all accountable to God for how we handle money.
 1. What did I do with all that wealth?
 2. What has my handling of money accomplished for the church, the kingdom of God, my family and eternity?

II. Ownership – It all belongs to God

- a. Stewardship and Ownership defined
 - i. A steward is “someone an owner entrust with the management of his assets”
 - ii. There is no understanding of stewardship until there is awareness of ownership
- b. God is owner of all! Really!
 - i. Psalm 24:1
 - ii. Duet. 10:14
 - iii. Lev. 25:23
 - iv. 1 Chron. 29:11-12
 - v. Job 41:11
 - vi. Psalm 50:10-12
 - vii. Haggai 2:8 & 1 Cor. 6:19-20!

c. Stewardship principles – Our job descriptions

- i. Stewardship parables (Lk. 16:1-15, Matt. 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27)
- ii. Stewardship principles about God as the Master
 1. The Master is the **true owner** of all possessions
 2. The Master will and **decisions are final**
 3. The Master trust the servants with His possessions
 4. The Master is **generous** in His reward system
 5. The Master has **specific expectations** of His stewards
- iii. Stewardship principles about us as property managers or servants
 1. **Stewardship** : We are to be acutely aware we are only managers
 2. **Accountability**: servants are to give an account to the Master
 - a. Each servant must do his job
 - b. Each servant will be rewarded/penalized personally
 3. **Faithfulness**: stewardship is to the end or return of Master
 4. **Industrious**: servants must work hard and do their best
 5. **Wisdom**: the goal is to multiply resources, this takes wisdom
 6. **Respect**: a healthy respect should motivate a good stewardship
 7. **Focus**: Serve the master well!
- iv. Four question to guide our spending
 1. Am I acting as owner or Gods trustee
 2. What scripture passage requires me to spend this money in this way?
 3. Can I offer this purchase as a sacrifice to the Lord?
 4. Will God reward me for this expenditure at the resurrection of the just?