Week 4 - 9-11-24 EQUIP - Good Stewards Reject Mammon - Choose God

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1 INTRO

APPLICATION

WELCOME

PRAY

RECAP:

Week One - Who's The Owner

Week Two - Faithful Stewards Are Blessed

Week Three - Principle of First

Tonight - Week 4 - Good Stewards Reject Mammon - Choose God

2

EXPLANATION

Week 4 - Good Stewards Reject Mammon - Choose God

In our last class, we spent our time together really breaking down the Principle of the First and why we tithe.

Let’s go beyond tithing and dig deeper into the heart of why stewardship is so important to us as believers.

Stewarding is about relationship!

One of the most important things to understand about Stewardship is that it represents God's desire to be in relationship with you.

Let that sink in - it represents God's desire to be in relationship with YOU.

If you think about it, all good stewards or managers, have a relationship with the owner and are in constant communication with them!

Is it possible that God has been reaching out to you and trying to talk to you about the finances and resources He's entrusted you with, but you've been putting Him on hold?

Instead of putting God on hold, what if you, intentionally set time aside and made an appointment with God to deepen your relationship with him?

3

EXPLANATION

Here's an example of God's desire to meet with His managers.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

Exodus 19:10-11 (NKJV)

God set an appointment to meet with the managers of His resources:

And then when that day came, He spoke!

And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

Exodus 19:19 (NKJV)

God always comes to a prepared atmosphere.

What would you think the church was unprepared on Sunday?

No worship team, children's teachers, greeters and no message?

Some churches do this and call poor planning "letting the Holy Spirit lead!", but the Holy Spirit doesn't lead by disorder in our churches or in our lives!

God is a God of order.

If we set appointments with people every week, why not God?

Are you preparing a time and a place to meet with Him?

What's the solution?

Set a time and a place right now, or at the end of this class – enter a calendar appointment.

EX: Commit to Monday's Prayer Room as your appointment to meet God.

On Paper - On Purpose

Missed Appointment Is Disappointment!

As you begin set the appointment with God, give Him your best - Your Firstfruit.

When are you at your best and undistracted? Late night - Mid-day - Morning?

It's time for you to set an appointment.

4

EXPLANATION

Question:

How do you think your life would change if you allowed God to speak into all areas of your life, including your finances?

5

EXPLANATION

Where Is Your Focused Attention?

Are you allowing God to speak into your finances or are you listening to someone / something else?

10 “If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. 11 And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? 12 And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?13 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

Luke 16:10-13 (NLT)

Jesus, himself, made it very clear you cannot serve God and mammon!

What is Mammon?

Mammon is an Aramaic word - means riches - Originated from the Syrian god of riches - Mammon!

Jesus was referring to riches and false God of greed.

Meaning and Implications:

- Wealth and Materialism: Mammon represents not just money, but the broader concept of material wealth and the temptations that come with it.
- Spiritual Warning: Jesus uses the term to warn against the dangers of prioritizing material wealth over spiritual well-being.
- Serving mammon can lead to a divided heart, making it difficult to fully serve God.

How to avoid the trap of serving mammon or material wealth.

Requires intentional actions and renewing of your mind.

Practical ways to keep your focus on God rather than on material possessions:

1. Practice Generosity
    - Give Regularly: Make giving a habit. Generosity helps shift your focus from accumulating wealth to sharing blessings.
2. Live Simply
    - Minimalism: Adopt a lifestyle that values experiences and relationships over material possessions. Simplifying your life can reduce the temptation to prioritize wealth.
3. Stewardship
    - Manage Resources Wisely: View your resources as gifts from God to be managed responsibly. This includes budgeting, saving, and investing in ways that honor God.
4. Contentment
    - Cultivate Gratitude: Regularly reflect on and give thanks for what you have. Contentment helps combat the desire for more and fosters a sense of peace and satisfaction.
5. Spiritual Disciplines
    - Prayer and Bible Study: Regularly engage in spiritual practices that draw you closer to God. This helps keep your priorities aligned with His will.
6. Community
    - Accountability: Surround yourself with a community of believers who encourage and support you in your spiritual journey. Accountability partners can help you stay focused on God rather than wealth.
7. Purposeful Living

- Seek God’s Will: Focus on fulfilling God’s purpose for your life rather than pursuing material success. This might involve serving in your church, volunteering, or pursuing a vocation that aligns with your faith.

8. Avoid Comparisons

- Focus on Your Path: Resist the urge to compare your life and possessions with others. Comparisons can lead to envy and dissatisfaction, diverting your focus from God.

6

EXPLANATION

God blesses money that has been submitted to Him, and isn’t used to replace Him!

That’s why the Devil does not devour your resources just as God promised in Malachi:

“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;

Malachi 3:11 (NKJV)

Your righteous worship of giving God firstfruit allows your tithe to redeem the rest of your money and resources.

Elder, Joe taught about the Principle of First last week.

When you worship God, you are aligning yourself with God and His will.

There is only safety and security within God's will.

This is not a matter of intimidation or compulsion - It is a relationship of mutual benefit & blessings.

APPLICATION

The Big Lie: "If you had more money, you could help people! Money is the answer to all of your problems!"

QUESTION: What are other lies Satan spreads about the saving grace of more money?

The truth is, Jesus never told anyone that the answer to their problems was more money!

The mammon spirit uses the "prosperity" message to cause people to be loyal to the god of riches, then when something goes wrong or breaks, they end up being mad at God!

Mammon promises us security, identification, significance, independence, power, and freedom.

Only God can provide us with our deepest needs - Money cannot provide anything other than the price of a product.

Mammon tries to take God's place!

Only God can give peace, love, and joy!

BIG DELIMA:

Have you ever thought, "We either need God to come through or someone to give us some money"?

If we think that most of our problems could be solved if we had more money, then the spirit of mammon has influenced us and we are living deceived!

Jesus has redeemed us from that demonic spirit of mammon -

When we show through faith that we trust God in all things, We can have confidence in our relationship with God and trust Him to provide all our needs.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

8

APPLICATION

Discussion: What are some active steps you can take to resist the spirit of mammon?

9 CLOSING PRAYER