

ABC's of Financial Freedom Sermon Notes 02/24/2019

Matt 6:24 (NLT)

24 "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.

Deut 28:1-6, 9-10

1 If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. 2 You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God: 3 Your towns and your fields will be blessed. 4 Your children and your crops will be blessed. The offspring of your herds and flocks will be blessed. 5 Your fruit baskets and breadboards will be blessed. 6 Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed...

9 If you obey the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways, the Lord will establish you as his holy people as he swore he would do. 10 Then all the nations of the world will see that you are a people claimed by the Lord, and they will stand in awe of you.

Psalm 37:25-26

25 Once I was young, and now I am old.

Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned
or their children begging for bread.

26 The godly always give generous loans to others,
and their children are a blessing.

Psalm 84:11

11 For the Lord God is our sun and our shield.

He gives us grace and glory.

The Lord will withhold no good thing
from those who do what is right.

Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

God's desire for us to *serve* Him with our finances is rooted in a desire for us to be *blessed*

Your money problems are not a *financial* problem. Your money problems are a *spiritual* problem.

"Our experience in decades of financial counseling has shown us that the most common barrier that prevents American families from giving generously and sacrificially is the financial bondage that results from excessive borrowing and debt. But like blood that flows from a wound, borrowing and debt are not the real problems – they are but symptoms of the real problems. The financial 'wounds' of American Christians are spiritual in nature, such as the inability to trust God's provision or a lack of contentment. And like a bleeding wound, the cut must be closed before the bleeding can be stopped and true healing can begin."

- Jim Berg and Jim Burgess, *The Debt Free Church*

Two things that using debt to step outside of God's plan for our lives says about what we believe:

1. I want to be the god of my own life
2. I do not trust God's plan

Gen 3:1-7a

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

2 "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. 3 "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'"

4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness.

The full blessing is already *ordained* for us and we encounter it by trusting Him by our obedience...or we miss it by *choosing* our own plan.

- 77% of those who tithe give 11%–20% or more of their income, far more than the baseline of 10%.
- 35% of those who do tithe have a net worth or will bequest that is valued at more than \$500k.
- People who tithe regularly typically have less debt than other demographics – 8 out of 10 have zero credit card debt and 28% of them are completely debt free, including not having a mortgage.
- If Christians followed the Old Testament standard of giving across the board, then \$139 billion would become available every year for additional ministry work.

(<https://healthresearchfunding.org/21-tithing-statistics/>)

When it comes to money, saying "yes" to *God's Kingdom* and His plan often means saying "no" to your *own desires*.

Deut 29:5

5 For forty years I led you through the wilderness, yet your clothes and sandals did not wear out.

Steps to Take:

- 1) Join the Financial Peace University class...especially if you are in debt, this course will give you lots of tools to help you on your journey out of it.
- 2) Start tithing and being generous...this means you will have to say "no" to your own plans
- 3) Partner with someone (spouse if you're married) to hold you accountable to following and trusting God's plan.

Deut 28:12

12 The Lord will send rain at the proper time from his rich treasury in the heavens and will bless all the work you do. You will lend to many nations, but you will never need to borrow from them.