



Stewardship Part 3: Your Treasure

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Preview

We must be good stewards of the finances with which God blesses us.

Praise

Go through the alphabet. Ask a student to come up with a word that describes God that corresponds with the letter A. Then have a different student come up with a B word, etc. Continue until you're out of letters, or as time permits.

Parable

Have you ever met someone who plays the lottery? The odds are not in their favor. Here are some things more likely to happen to you than winning the lottery:

1. Dying from a lightning strike
2. Being attacked by a shark
3. Becoming President of the United States
4. Being crushed by a vending machine
5. Dating a supermodel

Yet people's love for money drives them to buy tickets anyway!



Present

Money can be a dangerous thing. If we love it, it can drive us away from God. **1 Timothy 6:10 (ESV):** “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”

Money itself is not evil. It is necessary to function in society. It is even necessary within God’s kingdom. We are good stewards of our money when we make it available to God’s use.

Matthew 6:19-20 (ESV): “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

The Bible talks about giving more than it does heaven or hell. It is part of our worship to God. He has blessed us with the money we have, for He owns everything. It is an act of worship to return part of it to Him.

Part of financial stewardship is paying tithes. Tithe literally means “a tenth part.” It is always 10% of my income. Tithing is commanded by God, but there is a promise to those who are obedient: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” **(Malachi 3:10 [ESV])**.

Anything we give above and beyond 10% is a sacrificial offering. It’s still a wise investment! **Luke 6:38 (ESV)** says, “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Often people will say they do not give because they have too many needs. There is no money left over to give! Jesus has a promise for this as well, though. **Matthew 6:33 (NKJV):** “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

If you buy a Powerball ticket, your average odds at winning are 1 in 175 million. If you invest your money in the kingdom of God, your odds at winning are 1 in 1! God promises He will meet our needs and prosper us if we are good stewards of our money.



Practice

Let's review:

- What percentage is a tithe?
- Does God require tithing?
- What does God promise to do if we give tithes and offerings?

Pray

Pray with the students for God to help them place their values on things of His kingdom rather than the things of this world. Pray that God will help them to better invest their finances in His kingdom.

Plus

Instruct the students to create a simple budget, calculating 10% of any income they receive for tithes.