

FINANCES PART 2

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Today I want to share more about finances with you. In the last session I explained that it is God's will for you to prosper financially. Now I want to give you some keys about how that works. There's so much material that I am having to compress it, so I pray you will study and get a lot more from it. Luke 6:38 says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall it be measured to you again." There are many principles involved, but you can't talk about financial prosperity without talking about giving. Giving is what releases God's abundance into your life. You must give.

In the Old Testament the tithe was the standard, and then there were offerings in addition. Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." There are many scriptures about giving, yet when you talk about financial prosperity a lot of people say, "All right, so God wants to prosper me, but I don't have it to give." There are a number of things you need to learn. As the Lord talked about prosperity, He said, "First of all, you give ten percent." He didn't put a dollar amount on it, but a percentage. This means that any person can give; you have something to give. If all you have is a dime, then a penny is a tithe, and God sees that as just as great a gift as the person who gives a thousand dollar tithe from ten thousand dollars. He doesn't look at the dollar amount but rather at the percentage.

You can see this in the Bible where Jesus talked about the widow who put her last two mites into the offering. He had been watching the rich people put in huge sums of money, yet He called His disciples together and said this woman gave more than them all, because they gave out of their abundance, but she gave out of her poverty. God does not evaluate the size of your gift by its monetary value but rather by the percentage of what you had to give. When a person says, "I don't have anything to give," it's not true. If nothing else, you could take a piece of clothing you have and give it away. Everyone has something to give, so do away with this argument that you don't have anything to give. As a matter of fact, the time you seem to have little of anything is when your giving can be a greater percentage than any other time. A person who has ten dollars and gives away five has given a much larger gift than someone who gives a million dollars when they have billions and billions left. God set it up so every single person can give, can operate in this.

Another argument I often hear is, "Well, I want to give, but I just don't have it right now. I'll give as soon as I get some extra money." In that case, you're missing the real purpose behind giving. Why did God tell us to give? Why didn't He set it up some other way so money just comes to us and we don't have to give? There are many things involved, but one of the main purposes is that God wants you to trust Him in every area of your life. He doesn't want you to compartmentalize your relationship with Him into a Sunday part when you give Him everything, and a weekday part when you spend forty to sixty hours making money totally on your own and He's not involved. God wants to be involved in everything you do,

so how does He get you to trust Him? It's very simple . . . He says, "Give me ten percent of everything you have."

If there isn't a God, and if His Word isn't true when He says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you," taking a portion of what you have and giving it away is the stupidest thing you could ever do. Instead of moving toward the goal of having all your needs met, you're actually moving away from it if God hasn't promised to bless you. It takes faith to be able to give the way God says, and that's the reason He told you to do it. If you say, "Wait until I have some extra and then I'm going to start tithing," in a sense you're saying, "Wait until I can give, and if that money doesn't come back to me, if God's Word doesn't work, I can still make it without it." You're missing the whole point because you aren't giving in faith. You're saying, "Wait until I can give, so I don't have to have faith and trust God for it to come back." The whole purpose behind God wanting you to give is because He wants you to trust Him.

There are so many scriptures about this. In Luke 16 there is a parable about a steward who cheated his master, and it finally comes down to this: He says if you haven't been faithful in the unrighteous mammon (talking about money), then who will commit to your trust the true riches? If you haven't believed God in the smaller things, concerning money, how are you going to get to the more important things, such as spiritual values? Scriptures like this make money one of the least levels of stewardship. If you can't trust God with your finances, how can you trust Him with your eternal destiny? How can you truly believe Jesus has forgiven your sins and that you're going to spend eternity in heaven? In comparison, the spiritual things we supposedly put our faith in the Lord for are much more significant than money. Money is a minor thing, but it's the bottom line of starting to trust God.

Someone who says, "I can't give, because I have so many bills," is looking at the situation without seeing the spiritual side, without seeing what God can do. When you obey the Lord and begin to give, He gets involved in your finances. God will take the ninety percent you have left and make it go further than the person's money who tries to use 100 percent of it. This is illustrated many ways in the Bible. The children of Israel gave one day of every week to the Lord, took that day off and didn't work. Although the nations around them worked seven days a week, the Israelites began to prosper more than all of them. Then they took one year out of seven when they didn't plant their crops and couldn't reap anything that grew naturally. They left it for the poor, other people, and the beasts of the field. You ask, "How could they live; how could they survive?" God said He would bless them in the sixth year so they would have three times the normal increase to last through the sixth year, the seventh year when they didn't plant their crops, and the eighth year when they started planting again.

It's the same principle when we begin to trust God with our finances. When you give first, you'll find that the Lord will give back to you. God will never become a debtor to any man. He'll never let you out give Him. As you begin to give, He gives back to you. Proverbs 11:24 says, there are some that give away more than it looks like is necessary, and yet they prosper, and there are others that tend to hoard what they have, and it only causes poverty on the inside of them. There are many more examples in Scripture. The widow in 1 Kings 17:11-16 was about to starve to death when the man of God, Elijah, came and said, "Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand." She said, "I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse; and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah told her to first feed him and then herself and her son, and God said He would take care of them. She did as he told her, and the oil and flour she had lasted for three years because she put God first.

If you seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first, then He will add these things to you. If you say you want God to help you in your finances—and you're praying for His help but aren't seeking first the kingdom of God, and you aren't taking a step of faith, trusting Him with your finances, and giving—then you really aren't trusting Him. The promises in God's Word are so abundant that when you give, He gives back to you, so it really just comes down to a matter of faith. Do you really believe God? Do you really believe that when you give, God is going to supernaturally undertake for you; or do you see that the money is just gone? The truth is, when you give with the right attitude, the money never leaves your life but goes into your future, where it grows and multiplies.

Actually, when you're in need and what you have in your hand isn't enough to meet the need, what you need to do is turn it into a seed, sow it, and plan for the future. God is pleased when you give with a heart like that, so if you want to experience His prosperity, you need, first of all, to believe it is His will for you to prosper financially. According to 2 Corinthians 8:9, you need to believe that's part of what Jesus died to do just as much as forgiveness of sins. Jesus became poor so we might be made rich. It's the same thing in 2 Corinthians 5:21 when it says Jesus became sin for us so we could be redeemed from sin. The Lord wants you to prosper. If you really believe that, prove it and trust Him by giving. If there isn't a God, and His Word isn't true, then this is crazy. But since there is a God and His Word is true, then giving is your way to prosperity. The way up in God's kingdom is down. The way toward having more in His kingdom is to give not to hoard.

I challenge you today to look up some of these scriptures we've talked about. Think about them and pray about them, and begin to recognize that you can give your way out of poverty. You can trust God. Begin to honor Him with the first fruits of your increase and, as you do, God's prosperity will manifest itself in your life. It is not just for you but so you can be a blessing and abound unto every good work that God has for you.

FINANCES

PART 2

(Outline)

Luke 6:38: “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” Giving is what releases God’s abundance in your life. When you start giving financially, God gets involved in your finances.

Proverbs 11:24: “There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.” As you begin to give, God gives back to you.

Malachi 3:10: “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” God doesn’t look at the dollar amount of your giving but rather the percentage. Therefore, every person has something to give.

Luke 16:11: “If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?” God wants you to trust Him in every area of your life. One of the main reasons He has set up the principle of giving is that He wants to get you to trust Him. It takes faith to believe God’s promise that when you give, He will bless you. If you can’t trust God with your finances, how can you trust Him with your eternal destiny?

1 Kings 17:13-15: “And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. ¹⁴For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. ¹⁵And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.”

When you put God first, taking a step in giving, He’ll take care of your needs. When you give with the right attitude, that money never leaves your life, but enters your future, where it grows and multiplies.

When you honor God with the first fruits of your increase, God’s prosperity will manifest in your life, not just for you, but so that you can be a blessing. Believe it’s God’s will for you to prosper, and trust God by giving.

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PART 2
(Teacher's Guide)

1. A. God's motivation for giving to us is what? (John 3:16)

His love.

- B. According to 1 Corinthians 13:3, the motivation behind our giving must be what?

Love—seeking the welfare and benefit of others regardless of how we feel (Matthew 7:12).

2. Explain the meaning of James 2:15-16.

Ninety-five percent of all love is nonverbal. It's not in what we say but in the things that we do.

3. A. Is it wrong for us to expect to receive when we give?

Not according to the words of Jesus (Luke 6:38).

- B. What is Luke 6:38 saying to you?

4. A. According to Ephesians 1:7, did God give out of His riches or according to His riches? (Explain the difference)

God gave according to His riches—the best He could give to redeem us.

- B. How should we give unto God?

We should hold back nothing (Acts 2:44-45).

FINANCES

PART 2

(Detailed Teacher's Guide)

Note: The following information may be read out loud (a numbered section at a time) with the person(s) being discipled. After each numbered section is read, pause and ask the question(s) that correspond to the paragraph(s), and then discuss them.

¹ “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16. This very familiar passage of Scripture summarizes God's love for us and also gives us some great insight into giving.

The first thing that we should consider is that God loved us so much that He gave. The motive behind God's greatest gift was love. The proper foundation for any gift must be this godly kind of love. The Lord didn't just pity us; He didn't just feel obligated to us as our Creator; He didn't give Jesus out of guilt or desperation or any other motivation; He loved us with all of His heart, and that is what moved Him to action.

Likewise, the motivation behind our giving must be love for God. Much of the time, people are motivated out of pity, guilt, or debt, but that's not right. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:3, “And though I bestow all my goods to feed [the poor], and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.” The motivation behind our gift is more important to God than the gift. Pure love for God must be the foundation of all giving that pleases God. Absence of love as the motivating force behind our giving causes us to profit nothing from our gifts.

² Second, giving is something God did. It is an action. It wouldn't have profited us anything if the Lord felt love for us but did nothing about it. God's love compelled Him to act. True love for God and love for others will make us act too. Those who say they love God and yet don't give, are deceiving themselves. Faith without works is dead, and love without action is dead too. How does it profit someone if we tell them to be clothed and fed and yet don't give to meet those needs (James 2:15-16)? Our good intentions are not a substitute for giving. The notion that “God knows my heart, and He knows I want to give” is meaningless. That doesn't minister to God any more than it ministers to the needy when someone just wishes them the best. There must be action.

¹ (a) God's motivation for giving to us was what? (John 3:16)

(b) According to 1 Corinthians 13:3, the motivation behind our giving must be what?

² Explain the meaning of James 2:15-16.

³Third, why did God give? He gave because He was motivated out of love for us not love for Himself. But does that mean He didn't expect to receive anything in return for His giving? No! Titus 2:14 says, "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." The Lord had two purposes in His giving. He wanted to set us free, and He wanted us to come into relationship with Him.

Many people have missed the real point of John 3:16. They believed that Jesus' only purpose for coming to this earth and dying for us was to forgive our sins and keep us from perishing. But that's not it. God's primary purpose was to bring us into relationship with Himself, and it just so happened that sin was a barrier that blocked that relationship. So Jesus did die for our sins, but He had a greater goal than just keeping us out of hell. He wanted something in return. He wanted us, our love and fellowship. He gave expecting to receive.

Therefore, it is not wrong for us to expect to receive when we give. It should not be the primary motive, but it would not be like God to expect nothing in return. A farmer expects to reap what he sows, and believers should expect to receive increase from the seeds of giving that they sow.

Our Lord used the expected return on His giving as a motivation that allowed Him to look beyond the sacrifice of the cross to the prize that would be won (Hebrews 12:2). We need to recognize that when we give, that money doesn't leave our lives but it enters into our future, where it grows and multiplies. There is a reward coming for our giving. Knowing this will make us the cheerful givers that God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7).

⁴Fourth, how much did God the Father give? He gave His very best. He gave all that He had. He didn't play it safe in His giving. He gave to such a degree that if what He was believing for did not come to pass, He would have been devastated.

In the same way, we need to give sacrificially enough that it puts us at risk. Those who only give what they can afford aren't using any faith. We need to give with wisdom; but we need to give to the degree that if God doesn't come through, we are in trouble. Godly giving is a step of faith. Anyone who says, "I want to give but I can't" is missing the fact that godly giving takes faith.

God gave us His ONLY begotten Son; He didn't have anyone else in reserve. The world was unworthy of His gift, and yet He gave because of His great love. If God gave so much for us, how can we possibly give less than our best?

³(a) Why did God give Jesus according to Titus 2:14?

(b) Is it wrong for us to expect to receive when we give?

⁴(a) According to Ephesians 1:7, did God give out of His riches or according to His riches? Explain the difference.

(b) How should we give unto God?

⁵ Fifth, whom did God love? He loved the whole world. He didn't give His Son just for those He knew would accept Him. Jesus died for the sins of everyone, even those Who rejected Him (1 John 2:1-2). God was aggressive in His giving. We need to be aggressive in our giving, knowing that there are still millions of people who have not heard the "good news," and there are millions of others who may have heard, but the message has been muted by religion. We have to be aggressive in our presentation of the Gospel, and it takes money to do that (Romans 10:15).

Therefore, if we want to be godly in our giving, we must learn to give like God. Giving the Lord a pittance is like giving a small tip when it is within our power to pay the full price. That is not sufficient, and it is actually an insult.

If we truly appreciate what He has done for us, there will be no grief as we give back to Him. Sharing our finances for the advancement of the Gospel is the least we can do.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

⁵(a) What are some ways we should give unto God?
(b) What is Luke 6:38 saying to you?

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PART 2
(Discipleship Questions)

Read John 3:16

1. How did God feel about the world?
2. Because of His love what did He give?
3. Did God give His best or just a half-hearted offering?
4. Through His gift of Jesus, what shall we inherit if we believe in Him?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

5. What is your body now considered?
6. Who do we receive the Holy Spirit from?
7. Are we now our own?
8. What price was it that we were bought for?
9. Therefore, how should we now glorify God?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

Read 1 Peter 1:18-19

10. Did corruptible things like silver and gold redeem you?
11. Did the traditions of your father's save you?
12. What were you redeemed by?

Read Revelations 1:5-6

13. List the three things Jesus is in verse 5.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
14. How did Jesus feel about us?
15. Because He loved us, what did He do?

- 16. What did He use to wash us with?
- 17. Now that we are washed and sanctified, what has His sacrifice (gift) made us?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:3

- 18. What must be the driving force behind our giving?
- 19. If we give out of obligation, what will it profit us?

Read James 2:14-18

- 20. Is there profit in having faith without works?
- 21. Is there profit in empty words for someone who has a real need?
- 22. If you have faith without works, what is it considered?
- 23. How is it we show our faith?

Read Luke 6:38

- 24. According to this verse, is it wrong for us to think that we should receive anything if we give?
- 25. If we give, how will it be given back to us?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____

- 26. By what measure will it be measured back to us?
- 27. If we are stingy in our giving, what can we expect to receive?

Read Proverbs 11:24-25

- 28. What is the result of the one who “scatters more”?
- 29. What happens if you withhold more than is right?
- 30. What happens for the generous soul?
- 31. Will the one who waters go without?

Read Proverbs 28:27

- 32. Will you lack in anything if you give to the poor?
- 33. What is the result if you “hide your eyes” from those who need help?

Read Isaiah 58:10-11

- 34. If you help the hungry and afflicted, what will we receive in return?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
 - E. _____
 - F. _____
 - G. _____

Read Luke 14:13-14

- 35. Who should we invite to the feast?
- 36. Why will we be blessed?
- 37. When shall we be repaid?

BOUNTIFULLY: liberally, abundantly, with fatness, that blessings may accrue.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

- 38. How will you reap if you sow sparingly?
- 39. How will you reap if you sow bountifully?
- 40. How are we to give (verse 7)?
- 41. What kind of giver does God love?
- 42. What does God make abound toward those who are cheerful givers?
- 43. What will He give us sufficiency in?
 - A. Some things
 - B. All things
 - C. Only what He feels like that day
- 44. Why would God make us sufficient in All things?

Read Luke 21:1-4

45. How did the rich give to God?
46. How did the poor woman give?
47. According to Jesus, who gave more?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

48. Even though the church of Macedonia was experiencing great trial and deep poverty, how did they give? (V2)
49. According to their _____ did they freely give. (V3)
50. Who did they give themselves to first? (V5)
51. Then by Whose will did they give to the saints? (V5)

Read Ephesians 1:7

52. Did God give to us OUT of His riches or ACCORDING TO His riches? (Circle one)
53. Explain what the difference is between giving out of your riches or according to your riches.
54. Is God concerned with amounts or percentages?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:12-14

55. If we have a willing mind, how is our gift accepted?
56. Are we to give and go without so that others can live on easy street?
57. How is there equality in giving according to verse 14?

Read Matthew 5:42

58. What does Christ command us to do in this verse?

Read Acts 20:35

59. What did Jesus say was more blessed to do?

Read Galatians 6:6-10

60. What must we do if we are taught the Word?

61. How is it that we cannot fool God? “For whatever a man _____ that he will also _____.”
62. Why are we not to grow weary in doing good?
63. When we have the opportunity, what are we to do?
64. Especially toward whom?

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-18

65. What are the rich in this present age not to do?
66. Who are they to trust instead?
67. How does God give?
68. How are the rich to respond according to verse 18?

Read Malachi 3:10

69. What will God do for us when we bring our tithes into the storehouse?

FINANCES
PART 2
(Discipleship Answer Key)

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| 1. He loved the world | 20. Nothing |
| 2. His Son | 21. No |
| 3. His best | 22. Dead |
| 4. Eternal life | 23. By my works |
| 5. A temple of the Holy Spirit | 24. No |
| 6. God | 25. A. Good measure
B. Pressed down
C. Shaken together
D. Running over |
| 7. No | |
| 8. Jesus' blood | 26. The same measure I use |
| 9. A. In body
B. In spirit | 27. Stinginess |
| 10. No | 28. Increases more |
| 11. No | 29. Leads to poverty |
| 12. Precious Blood of Christ | 30. Will be made rich |
| 13. A. Faithful witness
B. First born from the dead
C. Ruler over kings of the earth | 31. No, he will be watered also
32. No |
| 14. He loved us | 33. Many curses |
| 15. Washed us of our sin | 34. A. Light shall dawn in the darkness
B. Darkness shall be as noon day
C. Lord will guide continually
D. Satisfy my soul in drought
E. Lord will strengthen my bones
F. I will be like a watered garden'
G. Like a spring whose water doesn't fail |
| 16. His own blood | |
| 17. Kings and Priests | |
| 18. Love | |
| 19. Nothing | 35. The poor, lame, maimed and blind |

36. Because they cannot repay
37. At the resurrection of the just
38. Sparingly
39. Bountifully
40. As one purposes in his heart
41. A cheerful one
42. Grace
43. B. All things
44. So that we would have an abundance in every good work
45. Out of their abundance
46. Out of her poverty
47. The widow
48. Abundance of joy and liberally
49. Ability
50. To the Lord
51. God's will
52. According to
53. Giving out = skimming off the top
According to = all inclusive giving
54. No
55. According to what we have
56. NO
57. No, my abundance may supply someone else's lack, and theirs, mine
58. Give to those who ask
59. Give than receive
60. Share in all good things
61. Sows - reap
62. In due season we shall reap
63. Do good to all
64. The saints
65. Be haughty or trust in uncertain riches
66. Living God
67. Richly
68. Ready to give, willing to share
69. Open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing

FINANCES
PART 2
(Additional Information)

TRUE PROSPERITY IS NOT SELFISH OR GREEDY

The proper motivation for prosperity is so that we can be a blessing to others. Those who resist prosperity are the ones who are selfish. Those who say, "I have enough, I would never ask God for anything more," are only thinking of themselves. That is not what prosperity is all about. Deuteronomy 8:18 says, "But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for [it is] he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as [it is] this day." God gives us the power to prosper financially so that we can use that prosperity to further His kingdom here on earth.

A good biblical definition of prosperity is found in 2 Corinthians 9:8, which says, "And God [is] able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all [things], may abound to every good work." Prosperity is having enough of God's supply to accomplish God's instructions. Those who feel they couldn't use any more money only have a selfish vision. Their needs may be met, but what about a lost and dying world? Those with an unselfish vision are believing for more prosperity so that they can give to every good work. It takes money to preach the Gospel. For the Gospel to prosper, we have to prosper. The money comes to us first so that we can, in turn, fund the ministry.

The Bible teaches against greed and covetousness, which is called idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Some have used this to say that having large amounts of money is evil. But having money isn't evil; it is the LOVE of money that is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10). It is possible to have money without it having you. And you don't have to be rich to commit this sin of loving money. In fact, some of the people who lust for wealth the most are the ones who are poor. They think if they had more money and what it could buy, they would be happy. The rich know that isn't true.

IT'S GREED THAT ROTTS THE SEED

If our motive for prosperity is not so we can consume the money on ourselves, then the Lord will give us an abundance of finances so we can sow them into His kingdom. If He can get the money through you, He will get it to you. Paul said God gives seed to sowers (2 Corinthians 9:10). This is talking of money. He was saying, "If you will be faithful to give, God will supply you with the money to do it." Therefore, if we are short on seed, it's probably because we are not very good sowers. Sowers have seed; that's God's promise.

Those who say, “I would love to give if I had any extra” are missing the whole spirit of giving. We should live to give, not give to live. Our number one financial priority should be giving. If we could have that attitude from our heart, our finances would be blessed.

I can just hear someone saying, “That will not work. My focus has to be on meeting my needs and then I give out of what is left.” That’s not what Jesus taught. In Matthew 6:33 Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” What things was Jesus talking about? We don’t have to wonder. The answer is right there in the context. Jesus was speaking of our physical needs being met if we would seek first the kingdom of God.

He wasn’t speaking of seeking first the kingdom of God through prayer or a Bible study. He was saying that if our reason for desiring prosperity is so we can advance the kingdom of God, then the Lord will see that all our temporal needs are met. That’s what the context of this verse teaches.

The Lord established a system which enables us to devote our whole heart to Him and His kingdom. We don’t have to departmentalize our lives into the secular and religious. We can make our whole purpose of life to glorify God. In the financial realm, we can make our real heart’s cry, “I want more so that I can give more.” When a person seeks first the kingdom of God in that way, then the Lord personally sees to his needs being met. We don’t have to be concerned with our own needs. And the Lord will take care of us better than we would have taken care of ourselves.

The reason for this is because, “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21). It would have been wonderful if He had said, “Where your heart is, there will your treasure be also.” But that’s not what He said. That’s the opposite of the way it really is. Our hearts gravitate toward where we place our treasure—not the other way around. Therefore, we have to commit to using our resources for the kingdom first, then our needs will follow.

In verses 22-24, this is explained further by saying that we cannot truly be focused on more than one thing at a time. We cannot be working to meet our needs and working to advance the kingdom of God at the same time. We will gravitate toward one or the other (Matthew 6:22-24).

So, this raises a problem. We have to have our needs met. If that is not to be our focus, then how will we survive? Jesus gives the answer in versus 25-33. The key is that if we will make our primary concern using our finances to advance God’s kingdom, then He will supply all our needs. If we take care of Him, He will take care of us.

Someone may be saying, “What about Hebrews 13:5? It says, ‘ [Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.’ “Doesn’t this verse teach we are supposed to have nothing?” NO! This verse is teaching against covetousness. We should be content with what we have, but as we start living to give, abundance will come our way, and we should be content with that too.

Jesus said in Mark 10:29-30 that any person who gives to Him out of the right motive would receive a hundredfold return IN THIS LIFE. That’s a promise. We don’t give to get; but we realize as we give, we will get so we can give even more. And as the money flows through, there will always be plenty for you. The Lord will meet your needs. He is El Shaddai, the All sufficient one—not El Cheapo, the Stingy One.

“Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant” (Psalms 35:27).

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