

**FAITH &
FINANCES**

STEWARDSHIP + GENEROSITY

Week of April 21th, 2024

MONEY MATTERS



Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

ICEBREAKER

Are you a spender or a saver when it comes to your finances?



INTRODUCTION

- Last week's challenge was to find one thing that God is leading you to do as a next step in your finances. Did you join Financial Peace University? What was your next step and how did you move towards being more generous?
- Why do you think people get uncomfortable talking about money in church? What about with your family, spouse, or kids?

God's Big Rocks About Money

- In Psalms 24:1 it explains God owns everything, even all your money. How are you demonstrating your faith in believing that God is the owner of all?
- God's people are stewards/managers, not owners of anything. Do you have an owner or a manager mindset when it comes to EVERYTHING God has given you? Explain.
- God's people are generous with money. Generosity happens after managing God's expectations (tithe). Knowing this, are you being obedient or actually being generous? How will this affect your level of generosity?

Some of Our Road Blocks About Money

- There is always someone wanting a handout. Has the constant need for a handout affected your ability and mindset to give to the church?
- Pastor Mike mentioned 8 excuses for people to avoid talking about money in the church. Which one applies to you? Why? (The Church talks too much about money. The Church doesn't need my money. I can't afford to give to The Church. The Pastor just wants your money. Tithing is NOT in the New Testament, so I don't have to tithe. I give money to charities instead of my church. I will give when I have more money. Why does money matter?)
- Whoever does sparingly will reap sparingly. Are you sowing sparingly in your giving? Why would you expect to reap exceedingly from that?

Let's Decide What Really Matters About Money

- Get on a Plan. Dump Debt. Live on Less than you make. Be a Super Saver. Be a Generous Giver. - These are the 5 disciplines that Pastor Mike encourages us with. What is one area you are successful in? Which one needs work?
- Prov. 21:20 (NLT) says "The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get.". What are ways you can be "wise"? What are some fun ways you have learned to save?
- What and how much are you sowing? And where?

ACT ON IT



Encourage

The journey to generosity takes time. You are not the only one going through this, everyone is growing in finances in some way. God is not surprised or worried about your spending. Trust His plan with your finances and become disciplined in how God wants us to steward his money.



Ask

Can we agree to decide to be a cheerful giver? Will you trust God in your finances and generosity? What is one possession that would be the hardest for you to “give up” if God asked for it back?



Challenge

This week's sermon is on why money matters to God and to ourselves. We challenge you to think outside of yourself and view everything you own as a possession of God's.

PRAYER

We thank you for this message that is both informative and challenging. Lord, we ask that as we go through this upcoming week, and even the coming weeks and months, Lord, that you would remind us that everything that we have is from you and because of you, help us remember that this money that you have blessed us with is not ours, but yours. Lord, we ask that you help us be generous, and not just generous, but overly generous with your money, because you are overly generous with your love and your gifts for us. Help us change our thoughts on money and talks about money and instead of seeing it as a roadblock, see it as a pathway to you and to help lead others to you. Change our hearts to be more like you with our money, our hearts, and our time. We love you Father, and we thank you for your love and your generosity that we don't deserve, but you give freely. - Amen.