



Message One: Money

Deuteronomy 28:15-20(TMSG) 15Here's what will happen if you don't obediently listen to the Voice of God, your God, and diligently keep all the commandments and guidelines that I'm commanding you today. All these curses will come down hard on you: ¹⁶God's curse in the city, God's curse in the country; ¹⁷God's curse on your basket and bread bowl; ¹⁸God's curse on your children, the crops of your land, the young of your livestock, the calves of your herds, the lambs of your flocks. ¹⁹God's curse in your coming in, God's curse in your going out. ²⁰God will send The Curse, The Confusion, The Contrariness down on everything you try to do until you've been destroyed and there's nothing left of you—all because of your evil pursuits that led you to abandon me.

Prosperity for a child of God is having enough to accomplish God's purposes for our lives.

Deuteronomy 8:18(NIV) 18But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...

3 John 1:2(NASB) 2Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.

Principles That Will Change Our View of Money:

1. We Must Believe that it's God's Will for Us to Prosper

Joshua 1:8(NASB) 8"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Proverbs 22:4(NASB) 4The reward of humility *and* the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life.

Proverbs 3:9-10(NASB) 9Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; ¹⁰So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.

People with money or without money can have a poverty mindset. If you're unsure, answer these statements with a "yes" or "no" to help you identify whether or not you have it.

- I am quick to justify or make excuses for my financial situation
- I govern my finances out of fear. I'm afraid that if I tithe or give, I won't have enough money left over
- I don't recognize God as my Source
- I am critical of those who preach about money
- I am suspicious of wealthy Christians
- I often wonder, "Does the Church need my money?...as though it was mine"

2. God Owns All the Wealth in the World

Matthew 25:14(NLT) 14"...the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone.

There are Two Radical Implications in this Scripture:

- 1) It's God's money and He has a right to whatever He wants, whenever He wants
- 2) Since all the money is God's money, every spending decision is a spiritual decision.

3. All of God's Wealth Also Belongs to His Children

Psalms 37:25(TLB) 25I have been young and now I am old. And in all my years I have never seen the Lord forsake a man who loves him; nor have I seen the children of the godly go hungry.

Romans 8:16-17(NLT) 16For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

2 Corinthians 8:9(NASB) 9For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

The Romans tried to give Him myrrh...NOT as an act of mercy because myrrh was a medicine that reduced the pain which would have extended His life, but Jesus refused it.

He was naked. Artist paint Him with a loincloth, but He did NOT have one. He had the wealth of all His creation, but at the cross He laid it down briefly to become nothing so we could have everything.

He was buried in a borrowed grave. But when He cried: "It Is Finished, sin died and we were forgiven.

When He cried: It Is Finished, sickness died and we were healed.

When He cried: It Is Finished, poverty died, and we inherited the riches of Abraham.

4. The Difference Between Living a Life of Prosperity and a Life of Poverty is Choice

Deuteronomy 30:19(TMSG) 19I call Heaven and Earth to witness against you today: I place before you Life and Death, Blessing and Curse. Choose life so that you and your children will live.

Luke 6:38(NLT) 38Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

Malachi 3:6-10(TMSG) 6"I am God—yes, I Am. I haven't changed. And because I haven't changed, you, the descendants of Jacob, haven't been destroyed. 7You have a long history of ignoring my commands. You haven't done a thing I've told you. Return to me so I can return to you," says God-of-the-Angel-Armies. "You ask, 'But how do we return?' 8"Begin by being honest. Do honest people rob God? But you rob me day after day. "You ask, 'How have we robbed you?' "The tithe and the offering—that's how! 9And now you're under a curse—the whole lot of you—because you're robbing me. 10Bring your full tithe to the Temple treasury so there will be ample provisions in my Temple. Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams.

Proverbs 13:4(NLT) 4Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.