

Managing Our Resources with Integrity

October 6, 2011

The Bible speaks practically about managing our resources with integrity. God has a part and we have a part.

“When we acknowledge God’s ownership, every spending decision becomes a spiritual decision. No longer do we ask, ‘Lord, what do you want me to do with my money?’ The question is restated, ‘Lord, what do you want me to do with Your money?’”

Larry Burkett

Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:

1 Chronicles 29:12

Proverbs 21:20

Matthew 6:24

Acts 20:35

1 Corinthians 4:2

Scripture to Memorize:

Luke 16:11 *“So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?”*

NOTES on Speaking Session:

Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:

1. Sixteen of the 38 parables of Jesus are concerned with how to handle money and possessions. Why do you think Jesus talked so much about money?

2. What are some differences between the way a Christian should handle her finances and the way the world does?

3. Don't just learn to do things right...be a *right* person—with integrity and godly character. What are some financial areas where you need help—to be a *right* person?

Recommended Reading:

The Challenge of the Disciplined Life, Richard J. Foster

Living as the People of God, Christopher J. H. Wright

CONTRASTING the World and Scripture

1. Relating to the practical application of biblical principles in our finances:
The world says God plays no role in handling money, and my happiness is based on being able to afford what I desire.
Scripture says as you learn and follow biblical principles of how to handle money, you will draw close to Christ and learn to be content in every circumstance.

2. Relating to God's part in our finances:
The world says what I possess I alone own, and I alone control my destiny.
Scripture says what I possess, God owns. He is the sovereign, loving, living God who controls the circumstances of my life.

3. Relating to faithfulness in doing our part in spending, saving and giving:
The world says you earned your money; spend it any way you choose and you'll be happy.
Scripture says you will only be content if you've been a faithful steward managing all your resources from the Lord's perspective.

4. Relating to giving with joy as to the Lord:
The world says it's more blessed to receive than to give.
Scripture says "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35b, NIV).

5. Relating to keeping your treasures in heaven:
The world says spend all you make. If you should save, put your trust in your accumulated assets.
Scripture says "*The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets*" (Proverbs 21:20, LB).

6. **Relating to working diligently and serving the Lord:**
The world says work as little as possible because labor is distasteful or work as much as possible because your job is all-important.
Scripture says work as to the Lord with excellence as your standard. Work hard, but don't overwork.

7. **Relating to being honest always:**
The world says you can be dishonest because everyone else is.
Scripture says the Lord demands absolute honesty in even the smallest matters.

8. **Relating to seeking godly counsel and spending wisely:**
The world says be your own person; stand on your two feet. You don't need anyone to tell you what to do.
Scripture says "*The wise man is glad to be instructed, but a self-sufficient fool falls flat on his face*" (Proverbs 10:8, LB).

9. **Relating to having only one debt—the "debt of love":**
The world says you may use debt as often as you wish; buy now, pay later.
Scripture says the Lord discourages the use of debt because He wants us to be free to serve Him.

10. **Relating to guarding your perspective on how much is enough:**
The world says wealth is scarce—it's a "natural resource" to be gathered, consumed and redistributed. Being rich brings happiness and security, and I can use my money for my own comfort any way I choose.
Scripture says wealth is created. It is a product of human effort and creativity. True joy is based on my relationship with Christ. I can create wealth in all areas of my life, be generous and share.¹

¹ Howard Dayton, *Your Money Counts*, Crown Ministries Inc. 1996.

Release- Claim Deed

This instrument is not a legally binding document and cannot be used to transfer property.

THIS RELEASE-CLAIM DEED,

MADE THE _____ DAY OF _____, 20 ____

FROM: _____

TO: THE LORD

**I (WE) HEREBY TRANSFER TO THE LORD THE OWNERSHIP OF
THE FOLLOWING POSSESSIONS:**

**WITNESSES WHO
WILL HELP HOLD ME (US)
ACCOUNTABLE IN THE
RECOGNITION OF
GOD’S OWNERSHIP:**

**STEWARDS OF THE
ABOVE POSSESSIONS:**

Stewardship Sermons

—by Henry van Dyke

The Land of Gold

“There are multitudes of people in the world today who are steering and sailing for Ophir, simply because it is the land of gold. What will they do if they reach their desired haven? They do not know. They do not even ask the question. They will be rich. They will sit down on their gold.

“Let us look our desires squarely in the face! To win riches, to have a certain balance in the bank, and a certain rating on the exchange, is a real object, a definite object; but **it is a frightfully small object for the devotion of a human life, and a bitterly disappointing reward for the loss of an immortal soul.** If wealth is our desired haven, we may be sure that it will not satisfy us when we reach it.”

The Reservoir

“The sense of absolute confidence in Christ as the perfect example of goodness, and of thorough loyalty to him as the Master of noble life, is the hidden reservoir of moral force.

“The charities of Christendom are the distributing system.

“Not more instant and more complete would be the dryness on Manhattan Island if the great dam among the Croton hills were broken and all the lakes and streams dried up, than **the drought that would fall upon the beneficence of the world if there were a sudden break in the reservoir of love and loyalty in Christian hearts to their moral Master,** or a stoppage of the myriad and multiform feeders which keep it full by preaching Christ.”