



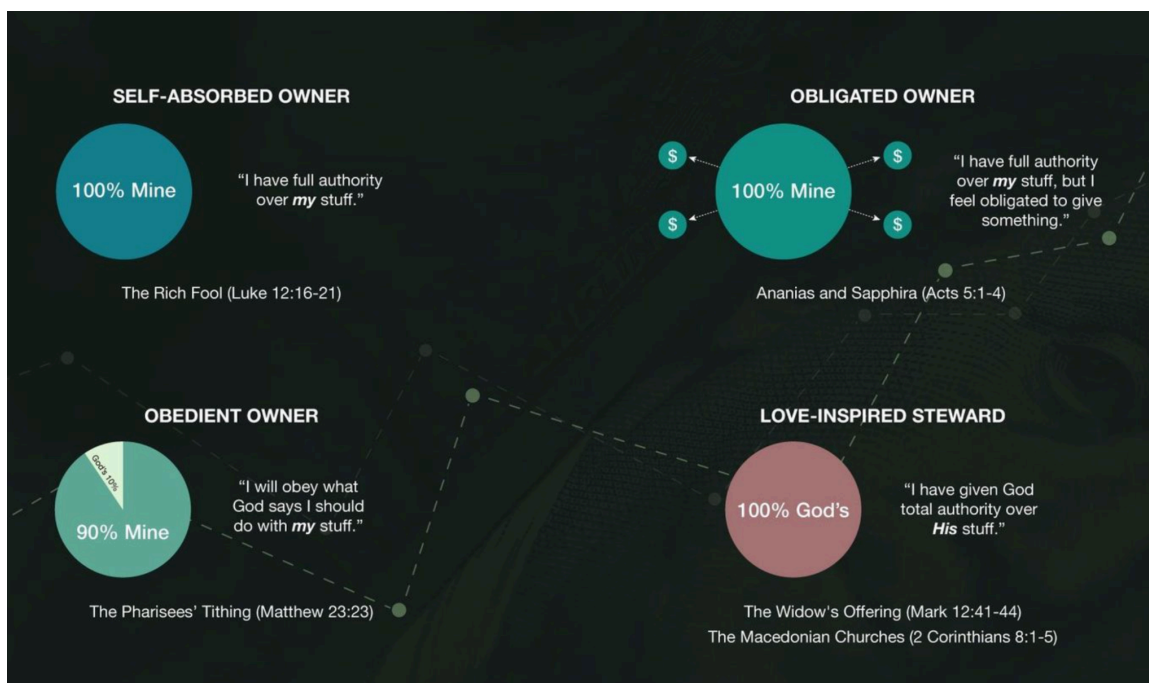
## part 2, The Problem

Pastor Tom Kang

*REMINDER: This guide is intended to spark meaningful conversation, not exhaustive coverage. The goal is connection, not completion. So feel free to spend extended time on just one or two elements that resonate with the group. Aim for heartfelt connection & personal application. Finally, trust the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion in the areas most needed by your group and enjoy!*

**Icebreaker:** Pastor Tom opened the sermon by asking how many people checked their phone before checking in with God that morning. Be honest with the group: What's typically the first thing you reach for in the morning, and what does that reveal about what occupies your heart and mind?

- 1) Jesus identified three “thorns” that choke spiritual fruitfulness: worries of life, deceitfulness of wealth, and desires for other things. Which of these three thorns do you find most suffocating in your own spiritual life right now, and why?
- 2) The sermon exposed “Big Lie #1: Things Equal Happiness.” Reflect on a recent purchase you made hoping it would bring lasting satisfaction. How long did that feeling actually last? What does this pattern reveal about the hollow promise of material gratification?
- 3) Discuss the difference between “You deserve it” (emotional) and “You can afford it” (mathematical). Share a time when emotional justification led you to make a purchase decision you later regretted. How can we create healthier boundaries between our emotions and our spending?
- 4) The sermon presented four relationships with money represented below. Which category would your bank statement say you're currently in? What's one practical step you could take this week to move closer to being a “Love-Inspired Steward”?





- 5) In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus teaches about storing up treasures in heaven rather than on earth, concluding with “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” If someone examined your calendar, credit card statement, and internet search history from the past month, where would they conclude your heart truly is?
- 6) The sermon concluded with this statement: “You can’t transform what you won’t diagnose.” Take a moment of honest self-reflection: What is ONE specific thorn you need to name and pull out this week? What is ONE change you’re willing to make as a result of this message? Share with the group and commit to pray for one another as you take these steps toward becoming better stewards rather than just owners.

**Register today and join us on Saturday, November 1st for our Faith & Finance Seminar with Pastor Dave Briggs!**

*Faith & Finance Seminar*

**Nov 1 (Sat) | 10am - 2pm**

Speaker: Pastor Dave Briggs

**Register Today!**