



99% PURE, PART 3: THIEF

“Help me God!” How often have you said these words? Our prayers take on a completely new dimension when we’re experiencing hardships or difficulties. And there’s nothing wrong with that; God invites us to call out to Him and ask Him for help. But if we’re only involving Him when things go bad, we’re using Him like a vending machine. He becomes a last resort—a last priority—receiving only the leftovers of our attention once we’ve exhausted every other option.

BIG IDEA: *The choices we make with money reveal how much we love God.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the worst decision you have ever made with money? How did each decision impact your life?
2. Share with the group some of your goals when it comes to money and retirement. (What is your plan when it comes to debt {“I hope to alleviate ? amount of debt in ? months.”} At what age do you hope to retire? How much money do you want to live on?)
3. Why are those previous questions hard to answer? Do you think most people have developed a plan when it comes to their money?
4. Most people aren’t aware of how much of their income they are saving/spending, yet everyone lives off a percentage. How easy could it be to end up living off of more than you’re actually making? Why does it make sense to choose to live off a percentage of your income? Why not make it your own choice and be intentional about living off of a predetermined amount?
5. There are 5 Options when it comes to Money:

Option #1: Spend

Option #2: Repay debt

Option #3: Pay taxes

Option #4: Save

Option #5: Give

Chris said, “Throughout the entire Bible, the way we **prioritize** our money represents an invitation to God or a cancellation to God.” How does the above list provide a system to cancel God working in our lives?

6. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Malachi 1:6-10.*

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the LORD Almighty. “It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. “But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’ “You place defiled food on my altar. “But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’ “By saying that the LORD’S table is contemptible. When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the LORD Almighty. “Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?”—says the LORD Almighty. “Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the LORD Almighty, “and I will accept no offering from your hands.


Malachi 1:6-10

7. What is most striking to you in this passage? What was God’s complaint against the Israelites? What type of sacrifices should they have brought (Leviticus 22:20-23)? How do we give God leftovers today?
8. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Malachi 3:7-10.*

Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ “Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Malachi 3:7-10

9. Why do you think God cares so much about money? What is the cause and effect in this verse? (Return to me and I will return to you.) God’s people’s priorities were upside down.



“I would love to move in your direction, but I’m waiting for you to move in mine.”

10. In the Jewish mind, what is a tithe? Why do you think God chose giving a percentage rather than a set amount?
11. Chris said that, “Tithing trains my heart that I didn’t do this by myself.” Why do we need reminders that our finances just didn’t happen just because of me?
12. Does it matter what percentages you choose to give, save, and live on? Have you heard any helpful suggestions from financial experts? Does the Bible offer any suggestions?
13. In what areas of your life do you hope God would move in your direction? What priorities are you going to have to change for God to move?
14. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Matthew 6:24, 31-33.*

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”
Matthew 6:24, 31-33

15. What are some things that you worry about? How can worry be debilitating? What strategies are you using to overcome your worry?
16. After reading Matthew 6:25-33, do you believe that worry is sinful? Why? What worries you most about the current state of the economy?
17. What are practical ways we can put God first? How do these practical steps eliminate worry?
18. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Mark 12:41-44.*

Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.”
Mark 12:41-44


19. Why do you think Jesus was watching people give in the temple? What do you think motivated the widow to give? What is Jesus trying to teach His disciples?
20. What challenges might prevent you from setting apart a portion of your income and practicing “give, save, live”?
21. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Luke 12:34.* What are some of the “treasures” or possessions in your life currently distracting you from focusing on God? What specific things can you do to remove these distractions?
22. What challenges might prevent you from setting apart a portion of your income and practicing “give, save, live”?
23. How can you manage the money and possessions that God has given you differently because of this study?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Money is competing for your love and affection. Give in a way this week that represents your devotion to God. Determine what percentage of your income you need to be giving consistently. If you are able, surprise someone with a gift this week who is in need. It could be a panhandler, a stranger, a neighbor, a co-worker, or family member.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 3:10-11



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