

NOTES

Scripture: Mark 12:41-44, Luke 6:38, Matthew 6:24, Matthew 6:21, 24, Matthew 28:18-20, Malachi 3:10, and Matthew 5:14-16

REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

1. Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging, or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before or something that made you think differently?
2. How do you feel when you hear a pastor preach about money and giving? What do you think?
3. Are money and money-related issues important to you? How important?
4. Do you think of yourself as generally content or not content in life?

The Story of Jesus
Part 41
Heart Check

Chris Figaretti
Lead Pastor
October 24, 2021

MY STORY

1. How well do you handle money?

2. Do you consider yourself to be generous? Why did you answer that way?

3. Chris told us that 25% of Jesus' words in the New Testament are about money and money-related issues (stewardship, tithing, possessions, etc.)? Why do you think Jesus talked so much about money?

4. Generosity is not about what God wants from you; it's about what he wants for you. Do you believe that statement? What do you think about it?

5. How are Christians called to live a radically different life? Think of some specific areas. Are you living a radically different life? Why did you answer that way?

6. How do you look at money? Is it a source of great fear? Of great hope? Something else?

7. Are you an intentional/disciplined giver? How? What fruit have you seen from this?

8. Do you give spontaneously? How? Share a story where you have given spontaneously.

9. What is God saying to you through the story of the widow in Mark 12:41-44?

10. Many of us probably have more to give than the widow in this story, but that doesn't mean that sometimes we aren't prompted by God to give more than we might instinctively be willing to give. Has this ever happened to you? How did you respond?

11. How does the widow's example of sacrificial giving impact your response to God's prompting?
12. In God's economy, the last will be first. For example, we see this with tithing and taking a Sabbath day. Do you believe in this? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.

Read Matthew 6:19-24

1. Can you relate to these passages? How?
2. How do you think money is related to the concepts of freedom and living life to its fullest?
3. What place does money have in your heart?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. Do you know your purpose in life? What is it? Is it something bigger than you?
2. Read Matthew 28:18-20 out loud in your Life Group. How do Jesus' words in this passage relate to your purpose in life?
3. Can you see how generosity, freedom, and joy are related to your own life?

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4. Read Matthew 5:14-16 out loud in your group. How is God speaking to you (in a practical way that you can act on) when you read this passage?

5. Read Malachi 3:10. Do you trust God's challenge to test Him in tithing? Have you tested Him in this? What happened?

6. Chris offered a three-month tithe challenge to the church. Essentially it's a challenge to give back to God the first 10% of whatever comes in financially to you. If at the end of the three months, you don't see God moving in your life in a way you haven't seen before, let Chris know, and we will give you back everything you tithed.

7. How can testing God's provision and blessing through tithing grow your faith? If you have an experience with this, share the story in your Life Group to encourage those who haven't experienced this.

8. Are you motivated to try the tithe challenge? Is anything holding you back? What? How can you work through that obstacle?

Your Next Steps are: **1)** Discover how you are fulfilling the purpose God has given you in life – if you're not, start. **2)** Take the Tithe Challenge. **3)** If you're not doing life with other believers, join a Life Group – it's not too late (<https://thevineyard.churchcenter.com/groups>).