

Let's Please God

Money Matters

I. The Intent: Let's Please God

Ezra 9:13–10:1 (NIV®)

¹³ “What has happened to us is a result of our evil deeds and our great guilt, and yet, our God, you have punished us less than our sins have deserved and have given us a remnant like this. ¹⁴ Shall we again break your commands and intermarry with the peoples who commit such detestable practices? Would you not be angry enough with us to destroy us, leaving us no remnant or survivor? ¹⁵ O Lord, God of Israel, you are righteous! We are left this day as a remnant. Here we are before you in our guilt, though because of it not one of us can stand in your presence.” ¹ While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites—men, women and children—gathered around him. They too wept bitterly.

II. Money Matters — *First Things First*

A. God is the owner of all things, and we are temporarily handling His resources.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV®)

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Luke 12:48 (NIV®)

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Isaiah 2:22 (NIV®)

Stop trusting in man, who has but a breath in his nostrils. Of what account is he?

B. It is God who gives us the power/ability to gain wealth.

Deuteronomy 8:18–20 (NIV®)

¹⁸ But remember the Lord your God, for it **is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth**, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. ¹⁹ If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. ²⁰ Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God.



III. Money Questions???

Proverbs 10:22 (NIV®)

The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.

Proverbs 28:20 (NIV®)

A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

A. Misconceptions About Money

1) It's Unspiritual to Be Rich

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV®)

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ **In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.**

2) Everyone Should Share Equally

Acts 4:32-37 (NIV®)

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. ³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Psalms 68:5 (NIV®)

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

1 Timothy 5:9-10 (NIV®)

⁹ No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, ¹⁰ and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.



2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NAS®)

For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.

Matthew 26:11 (NIV®)

The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me.

3) Prosperity is an Indicator of Holiness

Matthew 6:33 (NIV®)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

B. Kingdom Economics 101 — Matthew 25:14-30

v. 21 — “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

v.28 — “Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents.”

Three Principles Re: God’s Attitude Toward Money

- 1) God has entrusted various gifts to each of us.
- 2) God gives us the freedom to develop those gifts.
- 3) Each of us will give an accounting before God.