

ENOUGH
“Enough Madness”
February 21, 2016

Things Jesus Taught about Money:

1. Practical Advice:

- Pay your taxes (Matthew 22:21)
- Take care of your family (Mark 7:9-13)
- Work hard to manage your money (Luke 14:28-30)
- Invest for long term gain\security (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 16:1-13)

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Luke 12:34 (NIV)

- Realize money is a spiritual issue

2. Warnings:

- Greed is like bad breath, you’re usually the last one to know. (Luke 12:13-15)
- Orienting your life around “getting” has a soul-stealing effect on you.

“And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? Is anything worth more than your soul?” Matthew 16:26 (NLT)

“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.”

Matthew 6:24 (NLT)

- Chose who/what to live for, because everybody serves some master.

3 Questions to find out who you Serve:

- What’s “first” in your decisions? (Matthew 6:33)
- Who gets the first and best of all you receive? (Proverbs 3:9-10)
- Do you think of yourself as an owner or steward of your blessings? (2 Corinthians 9:10)

3. Generosity:

- Help the poor and needy (Luke 10:29-37; Luke 18:18-25)
- Support mission work. (Luke 8:1-3)
- You can’t out give God.

“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” Luke 6:38 (NLT)

- Jesus affirmed tithing (Matthew 23:23)
- It’s not the amount, it’s the sacrifice that gets God’s attention (Mark 12:41-44)
- To whom much is given, much is required. (Luke 12:48)

4. Debt (Luke 7:40-43)

“Because we broke God’s laws, we owed a debt—a debt that listed all the rules we failed to follow. But God forgave us of that debt. He took it away and nailed it to the cross.”

Colossians 2:14 (ERV)

Action Points:

- Make an appointment for personal budget recommendations (Tom and Lynne Ferris: tom.ferris@cox.net)
- Go to <http://www.daveramsey.com/tools/budget-lite/> for free online help with Dave Ramsey
- Sign up for the next Financial Peace University Seminar (coming this Fall)
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Leadership Tip!

Money can be one of the most awkward topics for a group. To have a good discussion, the group needs to feel safe about disclosing information on what some feel to be a very private subject. Try to stick with what Jesus said, and offer up hypothetical questions based on Jesus's wisdom versus direct questions on how the group uses money.

Enough**“Enough Madness”****STARTER QUESTIONS:**

Some say the definition of madness is: doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results each time. Do you think this is a fair definition? Do you think it could apply to how money is used? How so?

MAIN IDEA:

No doubt Pastor Hank has a tough series on his hands this time! Many strongly believe the topic of money to be a taboo subject in church; which is too bad because the Bible contains a lot of wisdom about how to handle money. The only thing that not talking about it does is deny God's best for our lives and offers no hope in improving how we use money.

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Clearly Jesus thought that money is a spiritual issue.

2 Corinthians 9:10 (NIV)

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”

What do you think “the harvest of your righteousness” means?

The term “righteous” in the Bible means those who honor God and order their lives in all things according to God’s will.

What kind of harvest do you think occurs when people see Christians using resources in a wasteful way?

What kind of harvest do you think occurs when people see Christians being generous?

Look at what the next verse says about being generous.

2 Corinthians 9:11-13 (NIV)

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.”

Most make the connect that their tithe supplies the needs of the church, but do you think they make the connection that other people praise God for their obedience?

With that in mind, do you think is such a thing as a tithe that is too small?

Mark 12:41-44 (NIV)

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Everything we have comes from God for His use. As part of His kingdom, it is our responsibility to use the resources He gives us to further His kingdom. Money matters to God and how we use it should matter to us.

What is a next step for you based on what God has spoken to you?

FAMILY FOCUS

Pass out pre-designated amounts of play money to the children giving the children varying amounts. "I am passing out some money to all of you. You will not all receive the same amount. I first want each of you to count how much money you have." Allow them time to count their money. "This morning you will get to use your play money to buy some pretend things you would like. You also can choose to give some of your play money away."

Lay the pictures of items to buy and ways to give out on a table or tape the pictures to the front chalkboard. "Each of you will come up to the front and choose some things you want to buy and then give me the money needed to buy it. You may also choose to take some of your money and give it away."

Each child will come up to buy and/or give. There will be one child you have chosen and spoken with ahead of time who will be given the smallest amount of money to begin the activity. Discuss with them ahead of time that they will not buy, but instead give all of their money away. After the completion of the activity, discuss with the children what occurred. Talk about how much money they had to start, what they chose to buy, and how much they chose to give away. Be sure to discuss with them the "why" and reason behind their choices. Talk about the child who was given the least, yet gave away everything.

"Thinking about what we just experienced together, I want you open your Bibles to Mark chapter twelve. We are going to read a story about a woman who was a generous and sacrificial giver." Read aloud verses 41-44.

"In this passage, Jesus is observing what people were giving to the church. The rich people put in a lot of money and then a poor widow came to give two small copper coins which equaled one penny. Who do you think God appreciates more? The rich people who gave a lot or the poor widow who gave a penny?" Receive answers from the children. Reread verse 43. "Why does Jesus say the widow put in more than anyone else? Didn't she only give one penny?" Receive answers from the children. "Jesus explains to us why in verse 44. The rich people, even though they may have put in a lot of money, it was still only a little bit of what they had. But, the widow gave everything she had to the church. She only had one penny and she gave away the whole penny." Relate the rich people and poor widow back to what happened during the previous part of your lesson. "The poor widow gave generously and sacrificially. What do you think it means to give generously?" Receive suggestions from the children. "To give generously, means giving away your money without being concerned about having enough left over for yourself. Giving generously means you give a lot of what you have." "What do you think it means to give sacrificially?" Receive suggestions from the children. "To give sacrificially, means we are not selfish with our money because we want to buy a new video game or doll. Instead we give up getting our new toy to give the money away to the church. We give away what we have as a sacrifice for what we want."

"What are some ways that you can give of what you have to others? It doesn't just need to be money." Take input from the children. "You can give some of your allowance to the offering plate on Sunday mornings. You could share your jump-rope or ball with a friend at school who wants to play with it. You could share your toys with your little brother or sister even when you want to be playing with your toys all by yourself. You can give away your time to help someone who needs you." "God loves those who give generously and sacrificially."