Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

:: The GENEROUS Life - Part 3 - The First Fruits :: November 22, 2015



Welcome & Prayer

*Make 1 Chronicles 29:11-13 (NLT) your Opening Prayer:

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O LORD, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things. ¹² Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength.

¹³ "O our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name!

Connect

:: What is 1 Thing we don't know about you and what is 1 Thing you are THANKFUL for today?

Sunday Message Feedback

- 1. Which 1 or 2 sources have been the greatest influence on how you understand and manage/steward your personal finances (Giving, Saving & Spending)? (Parents, School, Friends, Work, Media, Bible, Church...)

 :: Has it changed much through your life? from childhood, through your young-adult years, and so on...
- 2. What jumped out at you from Sunday's Message by Guest Speaker Robert Morris?
 - : Which point, story or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?
 - : What did Jesus say to you to you this past week through the message?

3. Some Quotes on Tithing/Giving by Robert Morris

"Tithing isn't really Giving, it's Returning!"

"The trap the enemy wants us to fall into is worshiping the blessings rather than the Blessor."

"Giving, more than any other activity that a believer does, works selfishness and greed out of our lives."

"When you get to heaven, will you look back on this earth and regret how much treasure you laid up here instead of sending it on ahead to heaven?"

<u>Pastor Robert Morris</u> explained God's desire to have the first fruits of our possessions and resources given to Him. Keep that in mind as you **read** the following passages of scripture

- EXODUS 13:1-15, PROVERBS 3:9-10, GENESIS 4:3-5
 - **a.** If God is the creator and owner of everything, why do you think He requires anything from us, including financial/material giving, investment and sacrifice?
 - b. What is the significance/value of giving the first/best of anything from God's perspective for us?
 - **c.** Have you ever considered your Financial Stewardship as an act of Worship either towards God, or towards someone or something else?
 - d. How would you define Greed?
 - :: Rarely, if ever, do we hear people confess Greed as a specific sin they are struggling with or acting out on. Would you agree, and why do you think that is?
 - e. What things, emotions, mindsets have kept or keep you from giving your first fruits to God?

4. READ 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 and Leviticus 27:30

- a. What does Tithing currently look like for you?
- b. What are some of the blessings you have experienced as a result of tithing?
- **c.** Why is it so important that we give God our tithe first?
- **d.** What kind of legacy could you leave for your family or those in your sphere of influence through your example of tithing?
- 5. Here are a few practical steps you can challenge your group in that will help them understand the importance of giving the tithe first to God.
 - a. READ Malachi 3:8-10
 - b. This is the only place in Scripture where God tells us to test him and it has to do with the tithe. If you are not currently tithing consider taking a three month challenge. Commit to tithing first 10% of your income to God for three months. If you do not see God's blessing and provision in your life at the end of three months then stop tithing.
 - c. Make a list of some of the blessings you have experienced in your life as a result of tithing. Keep this list in a place where you can see it so it serves as a reminder to you. Use this list as an encouragement during times when you struggle with tithing or as an encouragement to others who are beginning to tithe.

Application & Prayer

Fresh Start – 6 Week Finance Course

- :: Our six week finance course will give you practical steps on how to effectively steward the finances God has entrusted to you. You will be equipped with a Biblical understanding on how to budget and manage money. Whether you are financially secure or financially distressed, we all have room to grow is this area of life.
- :: Starts February 3rd (6 Wednesdays. 7pm) \$25/person or \$30/couple.
- :: Includes Robert Morris' book *The Blessed Life The Simple Secret of Guaranteed Financial Results.*
- :: Register online, at the office or with your program insert from Sunday.

Read - *The Blessed Life* - *The Simple Secret of Guaranteed Financial Results.* by Robert Morris.

:: Available at Guest Services or at the Church Office - for \$15, Or on Amazon.ca

PRAY as a Group – asking JESUS to help us to take steps to becoming more & more healthy, wise and generous in our financial stewardship.

Coming Up at Main Street Church

:: Hunger to Hope – Christmas Hamper Campaign

- *Sunday, November 29th is HUNGER TO HOPE Sunday! Bring in your final donations (food & \$).
- *Referral &/or Sponsor Forms available online www.mainstreetchurch.ca/hunger-to-hope
- *Referrals are due by Sunday, November 29th.

:: PRAYER SUMMIT

*Sunday, November 29th. 6pm-7:30pm in the Chapel. Includes our Kids Summit (ages 2-Gr.6). Worship-Prayer-Communion. Join us with your Life Group.