

Breaking the Pressure of Money

God First | Week 1
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Main Idea

Financial pressure affects people at every income level. Having more does not automatically produce more peace because peace is not ultimately found in how much we have.

Jesus teaches us to move from pressure to peace by remembering who our source is, putting God first, and choosing to trust Him with what He has placed in our hands.

“There's a difference between having resources and knowing who your source is.”

Scripture:

Matthew 6:25–34

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

1. Change Your Perspective

Jesus tells worried people to look at the birds and the flowers. If God faithfully cares for His creation, we can trust that He has not forgotten His children.

Our jobs, paychecks, investments, and possessions are resources, but they are not our source. Resources can change. Jobs change. Markets change. Economies change.

Our source does not change.

God is still Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who provides.

The problem is that while Jesus tells us to look up, culture teaches us to look around. Comparison causes us to look at what everyone else has until what God has already given us no longer feels like a blessing.

Nothing about God's provision changed. Our perspective did.

Planning for tomorrow is wise, but there is a difference between planning for tomorrow and living afraid of tomorrow.

Stop looking around and start looking up.

Scripture:

Psalms 121:1–2

“I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord.”

2. Check What's First

Jesus does not simply tell us to seek God. He tells us to **seek Him first**.

We can have God in our lives without allowing Him to be first in our lives. He can have a place in our schedule, relationships, plans, and finances without having first place.

God is not looking for a place in our lives. He is looking to be Lord over everything.

This includes our finances.

When everything else receives its portion first and God receives whatever remains, we are not giving Him what is first. We are giving Him leftovers.

“God doesn't want our leftovers.”

Tithing is not about God needing our money. Everything already belongs to Him. Giving trains our hearts to put God first and declare that our trust is in Him before anything else.

Sometimes putting God first also requires learning to say no. What we say no to today determines what we can say yes to tomorrow.

Say no to convenience so you can say yes to generosity.

No to impulse and yes to purpose.

No to cultural priorities and yes to Kingdom priorities.

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 10:12

Tithing teaches us to put God first in our lives.

3. Choose Who You Trust

Jesus teaches that we cannot serve both God and money.

Money itself is not the problem. The danger comes when money becomes the object of our trust.

Money promises security, peace, rest, and happiness, but it cannot provide what only God can give.

Money can buy medicine, but it cannot guarantee health. It can buy a house, but it cannot create a home. It can buy a bed, but it cannot guarantee sleep. It can provide entertainment, but it cannot produce joy.

“Money makes a terrible God.”

Abraham demonstrated this kind of trust when God asked him to place Isaac on the altar. Abraham did not know how God would provide, but he knew who his provider was.

“You don't have to know how when you know who.”

The provision appeared in the place of surrender.

Economies, jobs, markets, interest rates, and circumstances can change, but Jehovah Jireh does not.

Scripture:

Genesis 22

Abraham trusted God with Isaac and discovered that the Lord had already provided.

Put God First

We were never designed to carry the weight of being our own provider.

We have a responsibility to work, plan, steward, and obey, but God is ultimately our source.

This does not mean that putting God first guarantees we will never experience another financial problem. It means we can have peace even when we do not have all the answers.

“Your peace isn't determined by what's in your bank account. Your peace is determined by who is sitting on the throne.”

For The Church at The Groves, putting God first also means considering how our resources can be used for ministry, missions, the next generation, and reaching our community.

The invitation is simple: take a step of obedience. If you are not giving, start somewhere. If you are already faithfully giving, consider how God may be calling you toward greater generosity.

When God is first, we do not have to fear what comes next.

Key Takeaways

- Financial pressure is not solved simply by having more.
- Our jobs, paychecks, and possessions are resources. God is our source.
- Comparison creates pressure and changes how we see what God has already provided.
- God does not want a place in our lives. He deserves first place.
- Giving trains our hearts to trust God and put Him first.
- Money is a resource, but it makes a terrible god.
- We can have peace without having all the answers because our trust is in our provider.

Standout Lines

“There's a difference between having resources and knowing who your source is.”

“Stop looking around and start looking up.”

“There is a difference between planning for tomorrow and living afraid of tomorrow.”

“God doesn't want our leftovers.”

“What you say no to today determines what you can say yes to tomorrow.”

“Money makes a terrible God.”

“You don't have to know how when you know who.”

“When God is first, I don't have to fear what comes next.”

Reflection

1. Where has financial pressure caused me to focus more on my circumstances than on God as my source?
2. Do my priorities, including my finances, show that God has first place or simply a place in my life?
3. What step of trust, stewardship, or generosity is God calling me to take?