

All This Matters

There's So Much More To Following Jesus

July 10, 2022

Matthew 28:19 Go & make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & the Son & the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you...

Daily habits & practices of being a Jesus follower. A disciple. Disciples are followers who are looking for direction from their Master

Come - Near to Jesus; Hear - Pay Attention; Do - Obey, Practice

3 Tips for Spiritual Practice, Training, & Habits:

1. Create space in our life for listening to God's mission (Our journey).
2. Partner w/ the Holy Spirit to be present w/ God.
3. The more that we "do it" and show up, the easier it gets.

GENEROSITY

God's principles of financial blessing, giving, & stewardship

Satan does not want me to preach this message.

This message is going to transform your life, bring you improved financial results, & impact the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths & rust cannot destroy, & thieves do not break in & steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

How we view & handle \$\$\$ reveals our priorities, loyalties, & affections.

Bible verses = 500 on prayer; 500 on faith; 2000 on \$\$ and possessions. Jesus talked about money in 16 of His 38 parables.

This message is about money "flowing through" the Kingdom of God.

I believe **if** God can get money *through* us, He'll get money *to* us.

Deuteronomy 8:18 NKJV You shall remember the Lord your God, for *it is He who gives* you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant...

God gives. He's a giver. It's His nature to give.

None of us are natural givers. We're born as takers & selfish in nature.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave...

God is generous. God is a giving god.

John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to steal, kill & destroy, My purpose is to give (*supply, provide*) them a rich & satisfying (*abundant*) life.

"The devil came to take, but Jesus came to give"

James 1:5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, & He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. 6 But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone...

*There's nothing better than living a life of generosity & abundance.
We give because Christ has changed our lives.*

Let's emphasize that this is a message of hope, trust, believing, & faith in God our Provider & our source for everything.

Biblical Stewardship – a *steward* is someone who oversees property that belongs to someone else. A steward acts on behalf of the owner.

Our job is to manage His property in a way that honors Him, to make the kinds of choices & investments that reflect putting God at the center of our thinking & our lives. We are disciples!

We own nothing. All of it belongs to God. Our possessions, our time, our talents, our bodies, our relationships, the air we breathe, the earth.

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's & everything in it. The world & all its people belong to Him.

Yet we say things like, "that's my house, my car, my stuff. You can't tell me what to do with my stuff! It's mine!"

Let's Think Bigger & Think Long Term / "Generational Generosity"

Proverbs 13:22 A good *man* leaves an inheritance to his children's children; the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

Generous stewards (disciples) give time & resources to advance the cause of Christ. As disciples, we prayerfully commit to give money to impact eternity for generations to come—to leave a legacy.

Our responsibility is to steward this “abundant life” wisely, to bring God glory & increase to His Kingdom...

If we don't submit to Him, then we'll quickly find ourselves acting as if we're the **owners** & not **His stewards**.

I resolve to be a good steward, over all that God has given me!

*Recognize God's ownership of everything

*Begin to accept your role as God's steward

*Depend on the Holy Spirit & His Word to help make wise choices

Giving must be our lifestyle, we live to give & we love to give

Proverbs 11:24 Give freely & become more wealthy; be stingy & lose everything. ²⁵ The generous (*soul*) will prosper (*be made rich*); those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:24 MSG The world of the generous gets larger & larger, the world of the stingy gets smaller & smaller. ²⁵ The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.

God's looking for an opportunity to multiply what we have

Mark 10:21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him, & said to him, “**One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have & give to the poor & you will have treasure in heaven; & come, take up the cross, & follow Me.**” ²² But he was sad at this word & went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (*possessions had him*) (*holding on tight to all that he had*)

Does your checkbook/debit card/cash app prove the sincerity of your love?

There's nothing better than living a life of generosity

1 Timothy 6:10 The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith & pierced themselves w/ many sorrows. (*strayed from the faith in their greediness*)

“The blessed life is the best life!”

Storytime w/ Pastor Frank

2 Corinthians 8:2 ...they are also filled w/ abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. ³ I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. They did it of their own free will. ⁴ They begged

us again & again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. ⁵ They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord & to us, just as God wanted them to do. ⁶ So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you & encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. ⁷ Since you excel in so many ways-in your faith, gifted speakers, knowledge, enthusiasm & your love from us-I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. ⁸ I'm not commanding you to do this. But I am testing *how genuine your love is* by comparing it w/ the eagerness of the other churches. ⁹ You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.

Our giving sets the level for our living

2 Corinthians 9:6 ...a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." ⁸ God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need, & plenty left over to share w/ others.

1. Purpose in our hearts to give. Be a giver. Giving says, "I live in abundance & I refuse to hold back."

2. Make Christ's mission our mission. Matthew 28:19 ...*go & make disciples of all the nations...*

3. Be disciplined stewards of the abundance God has given us.

Luke 16:10 *If you're faithful in little things, you'll be faithful in large ones. But if you're dishonest in little things, you won't be honest w/ greater responsibilities. ¹¹ If you're untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who'll trust you w/ the true riches of heaven? ¹² If you're not faithful w/ other people's things, why should you be trusted w/ things of your own? ¹³ "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one & love the other; you'll be devoted to one & despise the other. You cannot serve God & be enslaved to money.*

We have Jesus, His Word & the Holy Spirit to lead & direct us to make choices & manage His affairs wisely. Let's take time each day to ask God to show us what to do w/ the money that He has entrusted to us. Ask Him how to invest our life energy...

Maybe you're here today & you have negative thinking about God's generosity in your life, or you're dealing w/ selfishness. You may want to pray a prayer like... *Dear God, please forgive me for not trusting you and being selfish. Help me from this day forward to be a generous giver to the kingdom of God. In the name of Jesus. Amen*

PRAYER

JESUS, WE WILL LIVE PURPOSEFULLY EVERY DAY / SERVE COMPASSIONATELY / LOVE GENEROUSLY / FOCUS ETERNALLY / WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HELP PEOPLE KNOW YOU & DISCOVER THEIR PURPOSE / WE WILL INVEST THOUGHTFULLY & PROVIDE A CHURCH HOME FOR THE LOST, HURTING & BROKEN / WE WILL DO THESE THINGS INTENTIONALLY / WE WILL SEE PEOPLE COME HOME