

Giving – Managing Money

Money isn't all it's made out to be. It can bring more pain than pleasure!

Jesus wants us to know how we can manage our money instead of it managing us!

Wise words from King Solomon:

- Keep good records: Proverbs 27: 23, 24 Know the state of your flocks!
 - Record and know what I owe, own, earn and spend.
- Plan your spending: Proverbs 21:5
 - Financial security is determined not by our income but how we spend. Charles Dickens Mr Micawber!
 - There is a world that spends billions on getting you to spend! Advertising works or they wouldn't do it!
- Save for the future: Proverbs 6: 6 – 8 Consider the ant!
 - Rainy days happen
 - Circumstances change
 - A minimum of 3 months outgoings is recommended as a safety net.
- Be content with what you have Proverbs 21: 17, Ecclesiastes 6:9
 - Earnings and yearnings – self control is a fruit of the Spirit
- Give!
 - An act of faith
 - An act that honours God and brings God's blessing
Malachi 3: 10 – 12

Managing money gives us the foundation to engage in generous hearted living.

Digging Deeper

For personal reflection:

1. When it comes to money management and giving which of the three servants do you identify most with?
2. Are there practical steps that you need to be put in place as a response to our studies together on giving?
3. Do you feel you are a manager or owner of what God has entrusted you with?
4. Meditate on Matthew 6: 19 – 24 and if you feel comfortable share your thoughts with you small group this week.

Read Exodus 22:25-27 and Deuteronomy 15: 1 - 11

1. How do we live in the tension of the call that there be no needy people in the land and the reality that there will always be poor in the land.
2. How would you evaluate the effect of the welfare state over the past 80 years? How does God's provision of debt cancelling and social responsibility differ?
3. What has been your experience of borrowing? What effect did it have on you and the people around you? What is it like to live with debt?
4. Money Budgeting is to be honest boring and hard work! What are the benefits? (We are advised that it is best to have three months expenditure saved and put aside for the rainy day).

Read Matthew 25:14 – 30

1. Does the amount of money we have make a difference to our attitudes towards how we use it?
2. Is accountability a good thing? How does it make you feel?
3. What is it in the third servants thinking that motivates his actions to dig a hole and bury his talent?