

Session 14 Receiving the Father's Reward Financially (Mt. 6:4)

I. BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

- A. The Bible has much to say about principles related to managing, saving, investing, and multiplying money. Jesus taught often on finances, yet we note that He emphasized two themes more than any other biblical principles on finances. First, He promised that God desires to supernaturally multiply our finances. Second, He warned of the spiritual danger of covetousness. He taught that the Father rewards those who are charitable with their time and money (Mt. 6:4).
⁴“...your charitable deed [giving time or money] ...your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.” (Mt. 6:4)
1. Jesus talked more about money than about any subject other than love and righteousness.
2. The Bible has over 2,350 references to money and the management of money. Of Jesus' 38 parables, 16 deal with money. One out of every 10 verses in the Gospels has to do with money or possessions—a total of 288 verses.
- B. He did not emphasize the many biblical principles on how to manage money. He focused on stewarding money *with the right spirit*, which includes not loving it, hoarding it, or trusting in it.
- C. The Bible makes clear that prosperity is a blessing, and poverty is a curse. The definition of prosperity is *having enough money to meet our needs and enough to bless others and to invest in extending the work of the kingdom*. God gives “power to get wealth” to “establish His covenant,” which includes the ability to bring more people into the benefits of covenant relationship with Him. He gives us wealth to promote the kingdom. The biblical paradigm of money includes seeing money as that which helps us to win souls, support missionaries and help the oppressed.
¹⁸It is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant... (Deut. 8:18)
- D. God desires that we prosper financially as we grow spiritually. He is looking for partners to be “vessels of supply” in purposes. We refuse both the spirit of poverty and over indulgence.
²I pray that you prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. (3 Jn. 2)
- E. Having financial abundance is God's blessing; it is also like swimming in shark-infested waters, and requires the Spirit's help to navigate it safely. Money can be compared to a sharp knife. In the hand of a skilled chef, it brings blessing, but in the hand of a child, it is dangerous.
- F. ***Jesus' premise***: God created us to love Him in four spheres of life—with our heart (affections), soul (personality), mind (thoughts), and strength (resources), because He loves us this way.
³⁰“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” (Mk. 12:30)

- G. We use our money to express love to God. Money is a relational subject to Jesus. He taught us how to express the first commandment, to love Him, in our finances. He linked money to pursuing God with love (Mt. 6:24). There are emotional dynamics related to giving our money.
- H. Jesus teaches that the size of the sacrifice in loving God through giving is more important than the size of the gift (Lk. 21:1-4). The widow who gave her last two mites showed much more love for God than those who gave more money but with less sacrifice.

II. THE FATHER OPENLY REWARDS FINANCIAL FAITHFULNESS (MT. 6:4)

- A. The Father openly rewards those who are charitable with their time and money (Mt. 6:4). Charitable deeds refer to acts of servanthood and financial giving to serve people in God's will. The Father's rewards openly show us how He feels about the way we love Him.
⁴...that your charitable deed [giving our time or money] may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. (Mt. 6:4)
- B. Instead of using all our financial strength to seek our comfort and/or success, we invest some of it in the kingdom. We trust Him to return our financial strength to us in His way and timing. He does it in a way that transforms our heart and blesses our circumstances.
- C. ***Financial power encounters:*** God's power is expressed as much in His supernatural provision of finances as in healing a sick person. There is a cause and effect dynamic that God intends us to understand. Jesus taught that God gives back to us in proportion to the measure of our giving.
³⁸Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over...For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. (Lk. 6:38)
- D. The measure in which we act against fear and covetousness by operating in the opposite spirit (faith and generosity) determines some of the measure in which God intervenes in our finances.
- E. Love is not minimized by believing that God promises to give us more money. We are called to believe that He will provide us with a greater ability to give and thus love others more.
- F. God promises to supernaturally open the windows of heaven financially and to rebuke the devourer as His people obey Him with their money. This is the only time He calls us to test Him.
¹⁰Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food [provision] in My house, and try Me now in this...if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. ¹¹I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground... (Mal. 3:10-11)
- G. Why does the Lord command His people to tithe?
 - 1. Tithing declares that Jesus is ***Lord*** over all our money and our primary ***source*** of money. It forces us to trust His leadership over our finances and positions us to receive *financial power encounters* as He answers us in our giving.

2. The storehouse was the central place to receive tithes under the leadership of those in the Lord's house (Neh. 13:5-12). Today, the storehouse speaks of the place you are "fed" spiritually—typically this speaks of one's local church, one's spiritual family.
 3. Tithing is the beginning not the ceiling of our giving and receiving from God.
- H. God delights in opening the windows of heaven to release finances in response to our giving. The testimony of three poor young people (Joseph, David, and Esther) who prospered is meant to inspire our faith. Do not limit God—you may also receive one idea (dream) that leads to wealth.