

Family-Leadership: Managing My Money for Christ

Week 4 - Men For Jesus Leadership Training

Matthew 6:19-21, 24.

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." NASB

Overarching Thoughts:

1. **Stewardship** guards you from Satan's attack and **Giving** releases you from the bondage of materialism.
 2. Though **God's word declares the truth, your heart decides what you obey** so guard your hearts and your minds in the word of Christ.
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Section 1 -- Just some thoughts about money.

1. Money is the great _____. It enables us to immediately gratify our desires, impulses, and lusts.
2. The bottom line in managing your money for Christ is to understand 2 things: _____ and _____.
3. **Stewardship** guards you from Satan's attack and **Giving** releases you from the bondage of materialism.

Section 2 -- God's Command and Warning

Matthew 6:19-21, 24

- a. Vs. 19-20 -- There are two places we can store our _____. One is temporal and one is eternal.
- b. Vs. 21 -- There is a direct connection between our _____ and our treasure.
- c. vs. 24 -- Money has the ability to capture our _____, our _____ and draw us away from God.
- d. vs. 24 cont. We can't play both sides of the game. You must decide which way to go. _____ - _____ is not an option.

Section 3 -- Satan's attack plan

1. In the battle for the hearts of mankind, Satan will use any lever he can to mislead, distract, and compromise humanity.
2. Satan's battle objective is to create _____ and _____ - _____.

James 1:6-8 (When talking about those who ask for wisdom) --"But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man unstable in all his ways."

James 4:8 "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

3. A double-mind is one that tries to _____ the fence between two _____.

4. To be a "Man for Jesus" you must drive for _____ - mindedness.

5. Satan's strategy for creating double-mindedness is to focus us on something we _____ and create _____ in God's provision.

6. The real issue is not the item we lack but our _____ and _____ with what we have.

7. All Satan must do is create a sense of _____ in the one being tempted.

8. **Dissatisfaction** and **Discontent** lead to **lust and covetousness**, which then leads to **sin**.

***James 1:14-15** "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished it brings forth death."*

9. **Lust -- To gaze upon something with a desire to possess in order to satisfy an appetite.**

Section 4 -- Our Best Defense

1. The best way to defend ourselves is to proactively take the battle to _____.
2. A pre-emptive strike is focused on
 - a. Remove the enemies' ability to wage war -- not really an option with Satan.
 - b. Remove the enemies' avenues of attack.
 - c. Remove the objective that the enemy is targeting.

Section 5 -- Our Tactics

1. **Proactively build a wall of satisfaction and contentment.**

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (Godliness with Contentment is great gain) -- If you build a wall of satisfaction and contentment then Satan loses a major avenue of attack.

- a. Confront any complaining about what you have or do not have. Turn your eyes to your wealth, not your lack. If your heart needs to complain, do it to God. Don't leave room for the enemy.
- b. Do an inventory of your life goals, expectations, and dreams measuring them against the word of God and to see where your heart is.
- c. Intentionally thank God when things don't go according to your plan.
- d. Lead your families by building an attitude of gratitude in all things.

2. **Relinquish ownership of all your worldly possessions to God, including your family and even yourself.**

Learn the role of the steward -- Psalm 24:1, Math 25:14-28, 1Cor 6:19-20, Galatians 2:20

- a. Do you still think you own yourself? You are the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Realize that you are crucified with Christ. You no longer live but Christ lives in you. If you can clearly apprehend this fact, then you will only have one master. When a person becomes single-minded towards God, they become much harder to tempt, which removes their heart from the battlefield.
- c. Understand that your life and resources are not for you to spend anyway you want.
- d. Realize you are God's prized possession and yet a tool of His will.

3. **Learn to Give and Give to learn --**

Proverbs 3:9-10, Mal 3:8-12, Hebrew 11:1-6

- a. If you don't tithe, start. It will release you from bondage to your money.
- b. Watch for God's response to your faithfulness and rejoice in his provision.

4. **Add stewardship and giving to your accountability regimen.**

- a. We hold ourselves accountable in areas of physical lust, quiet time, thought life etc. but ignore the battlefield of wealth, and how it affects our spiritual life.
- b. Ask each other how you are doing on the tactics. Are you content and satisfied with God's provision? Have you come to grips with giving? Where is Satan having his way with you in this arena, and are you living the life of a steward?

5. **Don't put off Joy or peace.** --

Prov. 23:4-5, Math 6:25-34, Phil 4:6-7.

- a. Take your eyes off the world and where it is going. You can't defend your stuff against all the stupidity around you.
- b. Do not commit your life to gain wealth
Realize that peace is a prerequisite not a result.

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2 **Section 6 -- Deal with the reality of the Challenge**

1. Many of the tactics listed above go against our societal and intellectual upbringing as well as our fallen nature. We are talking about a full transformation by the renewing of your mind -- Romans 12:1-2
2. Executing these tactics will require all the elements of our model of being "Men for Jesus". We will need to **reject passivity, accept responsibility, lead courageously, expect God's reward**, and my one addition -- **rest in God's presence.**
3. The curse of the fall will make this a challenge Genesis 3:17-19a

Finally -- If God owns our hearts, we will remain in submission to Him, regardless of our finances, realizing that all we are and all we have belongs to Him. Conversely, if the world owns our hearts, we will guard our resources from God, believing that if He controls them we will have less, fearful that He might leave us to fend for ourselves or direct "our money" towards things we don't value. No one can serve two masters so you must decide.

SMALL GROUP TIME: APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

- Share stories of how God has provided in your life -- continue this discussion as long as you like. It can be a real faith booster for those who are struggling.
- Share some areas where you are really struggling with double-mindedness in general, or God's provision in specific. (Remember some may be going through some real financial affliction).
- Pray for those who are struggling with double-mindedness or financial issues.