

The Journey Of Generosity

Where To Start

Matthew 23:23

And then God says, "About your resources. You offered them up to me and I will assume full control of your resources. All of them from now on." And that relieves a lot of anxiety for new believers—the fact that all of our resources are under God's control. That he's ultimately responsible for them. Now God says, "I want you to manage the day-to-day operations of these resources, but only under my supervision. I'm in control." And the believer says, "I wouldn't have it any other way."

Then God says, "Alright, now that I'm in control and I'm supervising and you're just managing, here's my first request.

My first request is that you take the first 10 percent of all that you earn and give it to the church you belong to. Do you understand? Is that complicated? Can I trust you to do that? That's my first request.

Then, after you have demonstrated faithfulness in that simple matter, then that's going to qualify you to move on into the adventure of resource management that I'm going to lead you to for the rest of your life. I'm going to involve you in some spine-tingling tales of giving and receiving, and divesting and investing. I'm going to have you give money to some fascinating projects and some unlikely people and then I'm going to flow resources back into your life, so you can continue the process. I'm going to involve you in some daring rescues and in some fantastic answers to prayer. But as you follow my instructions, even if they don't always make logical sense to your accountant, you're going to someday grasp my wisdom. And you're going to worship me for my creativity and power."

(Bill Hybels, "Respect the Property of Others"
The Ten Commandments Tape Series)

All passages, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version of the Bible.

You can download the free YouVersion Bible app that includes the NIV translation at your favorite app store.

message notes

March 3/4, 2018

Michael Yearley

Rooted

The Journey Of Generosity

The Question

Rooted

The Rhythm Of Relationship

The way we think about money and the place it has in our lives is extremely important. So important, that Jesus taught more on money than faith and prayer - more than anything else except for the Kingdom of God. He knew the power money can have in our lives and how it can help us accomplish God's purpose. He also knew how easily it can strangle the very purpose for which we were created.

(*Rooted*, Week 8, Day 1)

Rooted

Jesus & Generosity

Matthew 6:19-21 & Luke 16:10-15

Rooted

The Journey Of Generosity

1) _____ Is . . . _____.

Mark 10:17-30

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
(John 10:10)

2) _____ . . . Are _____.

Psalms 24:1/Deuteronomy 8:10-18/Matthew 25:14-30

If you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?
(Luke 16:12)

3) _____ . . . Are A _____.

Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
(Luke 16:10-13)

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
(Matthew 6:21)

Most people fail to realize that money is both a *test* and a *trust* from God. God uses finances to teach us to trust him, and for many people, money is the greatest test of all. God watches how we use money to test how trustworthy we are.
(Rick Warren, *Purpose Driven Life*)

4) _____ . . . To _____.

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
(Philippians 4:12-13)

Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.
(Proverbs 3:9-10)

"Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.
(Malachi 3:7-12)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. . . . You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
(2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 11)