



February 20 & 21: It's About Attitude

Overview

We've been hearing about companies receiving a bailout, but we're going to receive something better than a bailout, we're going BEYOND to follow God's plan for money management. We will learn how God wants to prosper you ... we'll learn how to get out of debt ... and who caused your financial problems. But, we will also discover how to solve those problems and how to excel when it comes to finances.

Goals of the study guide:

- To look at our own attitude toward money, giving and God's place in it all.
- To consider familiar lies that sound like the truth.
- To look at some truths that sound like lies.

Key points:

- God determines how much money I have—not me.
- God can shut down your income.
- Giving to God is the only way out of my financial problems.



Take a second look ... Sermon Summary

In *1 Chronicles 29*, David is saying to God in the presence of all the people, "You are great ... you have it all ... I didn't know life could give so much, but all we did was give what you gave us."

Here's our problem: We have been taught falsely about money.

Lies that sound like truths:

1. All the church talks about is ... *money*.

Connection Pointe's philosophy is based on *2 Corinthians 9:7* which says, *You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. (NLT)*

The fact is: most Christians are poor money managers. They have the attitude that says, "Oh, God will take care of me."

But God has said, "I will take care of you if you follow my guidelines."

If we're going to follow Jesus BEYOND, we have to change our attitude about money! It's time we seek God's advice so we can solve our financial problems.

2. Money and things can ... *satisfy me*.

Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 says, ¹⁰*Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. ¹¹As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? (NLT)*

We need to change our attitude: Having things will not bring happiness ... only God can do that. And He does that when we connect to Jesus and each other.

3. It's my money and I can do ... *whatever I want*.

The truth is: It all belongs to God ... we just have the privilege to manage it. *Psalms 24:1* reads, *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.*

Truths that sound like lies:

1. God determines how much money I have ... not me.

We have to change our attitude. It's not you. It's not your company. It's not your business insight. It's not even your hard work. It's not your creativity. It's God! You say, "But I worked hard for it." Who gave you the health to be able to work hard? You say, "But I planned and invested well." Who gave you the ability to do that?

2. God can shut down ... your income.

King Nebuchadnezzar was king of the greatest world kingdom that ever existed. But God humbled him until he lifted his eyes to heaven and submitted to God. If God can shut down a man that powerful, He can humble us as well. So we better change our attitude. Instead of worrying so much about the economy and the stock market, we better start giving attention to our relationship with God and how we manage our finances.

3. Giving to God is the only way out of ... my financial problems.

2 Corinthians 9:6

It's all about attitude ... we must recognize that God is ultimately in control of our finances.



Take it to the source ... Bible Study

Introductory question: If you were given \$25,000 to give away, how would you distribute it? Why?

Opening thought:

Use this question to get your group thinking about money—how they view it, how they use it and their responsibility to be a good steward of their finances.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

1. Why is our attitude in giving more important than the amount that we give? (Look at *Luke 21:1-4*.)
2. How would you describe your giving attitude? Generous, cheerful, reluctant, guilty? To gain favor with God? To impress others?
3. Have you ever seen your financial decisions as being a way to confirm the message of Jesus Christ? What is your response to that thought?
4. Francis of Assisi once said, "It is in giving that we receive." Do you believe that giving is better than receiving? Why or why not?
5. Have you ever given sacrificially and experienced God's blessing? What form did the blessing take? How did it affect your relationship with God?

Key points:

- Our society tends to look at the amount that people give when considering what is a good or bad gift, but Jesus told us that the attitude of the heart is all important.
- How we handle our money can actually send a strong message to others about our relationship with God.
- Giving actually is a greater blessing than receiving. As we learn to love as God loves, we enjoy giving to others and the blessing it brings.

Points to ponder:

- *Luke 21:1-4*. What would be your attitude as you watched all the big amounts of money being given? Would you even notice the poor widow?
- Most of us give out of what we have left over after we have spent as much as we want on ourselves. To give in a way that means we have to go without takes a different attitude. God blesses us when we take the step and actually give up something for somebody else.

Read Luke 12:13-21.

1. What would you say are your three most treasured possessions?
2. In verse 21, Jesus talks about people who store up things for themselves but are not rich toward God. Do you think this is about possessions only? What other things can become more important than God himself?
3. Can spiritual things—experiences, knowledge, relationships—become more important than God? How so?
4. How can you and your group practically guard against the greed that seems to be all around us?

Key points:

- Jesus said that you can tell a lot about a person's heart attitude if you look at the things they consider most important. Have your group take some time to consider where their hearts might be devoted and where they might not be. *Matthew 6:19-21*.
- There are many things that can take the place of God. Even our spiritual treasures can become more important than our relationship with God if we are not careful. We can get caught up in experiences, books or spiritual knowledge and value them more highly than we value God Himself.

Read Daniel 4:29-37.

1. Why is it dangerous to claim as your own something that has graciously been given to you by God?
2. Have you ever had to acknowledge God's supreme role in your life and your dependence on Him? What was that situation like for you? What life lessons did you learn?
3. Read Nebuchadnezzar's description of God in verses 34-35. How does that fit with your picture of God? How might it alter the way you view God and your relationship with Him?
4. Is there anything in your life that hinders you from humbling yourself before God and glorifying Him as the King of heaven? What do you need to do to set those hindrances aside?

Key points:

- We must acknowledge God as our ultimate source for everything.
- It is important to see God as the Creator and Ruler of all things.
- Each one of us has to humble ourselves before God and recognize that He is ultimately in control of every aspect of our lives.

Character study:

- Nebuchadnezzar was king of the Babylonian Empire. His kingdom is considered one of the greatest of all time. He conquered numerous countries, and when he had extended his empire, he built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, along with many other canals, temples, aqueducts and reservoirs.
- After he accomplished all this, he said it was his own doing. He did not acknowledge God's role in it all.



Take it home ... Practical Applications

- **Trust in God**—He is the one who gives you the ability to produce wealth. Start trusting Him alone for your finances.
- **Practice self-denial**—Until you learn to control impulse spending and binge buying, you won't be able to get out of debt.
- **Be self-disciplined**—No one else is going to do it for you. Learn to say no and go without those things you are tempted to buy.

Sermons are just a click away! Watch or listen to sermons online @ ConnectionPointeChurch.org.

All Bible references are from the New International Version unless otherwise noted.

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