



IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONEY

What is it about?

- MAY 15 Giving Tithes is Not About the Money
- MAY 29 The Worst Things About Money are Not About the Money
- MAY 22 The Best Things About Money are Not About the Money

3-PART SERMONS SERIES

Preachers Wanted!

I am looking for young people who will help me preach the next three sermons. Each sermon will end with three additional points shared by young people. What to do it?

Here is how it will work:

1. **Sign up!** Just let me know that you want to do it. The sooner the better. The first sermon is on the 15th. I am asking a lot of people so it is possible that all the spots will be taken before you sign up, but sign anyway.
2. **Pick a point to share!** You can share by yourself or with someone else. I have the points typed out, but you can preach them in your own words. Your thoughts will make it better. Each point includes a Bible verse to read and about 2 minutes of thoughts to share about it.
3. **Come to a prep meeting!** It will be ideal to meet with the other preachers but if that is not possible, I will meet with preachers individually. The prep meeting is for a brief study, answering questions and a bit of practice. I will schedule the meeting based on the availability of the preachers.
4. **Preach!**

This will be awesome!

Pastor Ryan



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3-PART SERMONS SERIES

MAY 15 [☉] PART 1 Giving Tithe is Not About the Money

7 Things giving tithe is about...

4 points from Malachi 3:6-12 (Pastor Ryan's sermon):

1. Responding to God's ownership and generosity!
2. Supporting God's work!
3. Testing (and proving) God's Faithfulness!
4. Receiving God's blessings!

3 points from the preaching team:

1. **Tithing is about loving God more than money!**

Giving tithe is not about the money, it's about loving God more than money!

Matthew 6:24 says, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Giving tithe is a choice to make God our master and not money. God knows that money has a powerful pull on our hearts. For our own good he has commanded us to regularly give money away to keep us from making it our master.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 says, "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."

We fall into a lot of bad stuff when we make money our master. It's not the money that is evil, it's the love of it. God has called us to love him with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37). When money holds the highest place in our hearts, God doesn't. Giving tithe is not about the money, it's about loving God more than money!

2. Tithing is about the joy of giving!

Giving tithe is not about the money, it's about the joy of giving!

2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

In verses 1-6 Paul wrote to the Corinthians about their readiness to give to the ministry of the Church. He knew that they were so willing that he didn't really need to remind them. He told them not to give out of pressure but because of their joy in giving. God never forces us. Love can't be forced. Pressuring people to give in church is out of line with the character of God. God is a giver. He so loved the world that he gave... (John 3:16). As we grow to love more like he loves we find more and more joy in giving. It is better not to give than to give resentfully. Because it is not about the money, it's about the joy of giving.

3. Tithing is about the peace of trusting God with everything we have!

Giving tithe is not about the money, it's about the peace of trusting God with everything we have!

Mark 12:41-44 says, "And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Jesus said that she gave more. It can't be about the money because she didn't give more money. What did she give more of? She gave more of her trust to God because she gave everything she had. She had no resources left to give her peace outside of God. The small percentage that we give back to God reminds us that we can trust God with everything we have. The 10% of our money that we give back to God reminds us that 100% of our peace comes from him. It's not about the money, it's about peace of trusting God with everything we have!



3-PART SERMONS SERIES

MAY 22 [©] PART 2

The Worst Things About Money are Not About the Money

9 of the worst things about money...

6 points from Luke 12:13-21 (Pastor Ryan's sermon):

1. Money breaks relationship!
2. Covetousness is sneaky!
3. Materialism reduces life to possessions!
4. We can have more than we know what to do with!
5. Wealth is a false security!
6. Earthly treasures hijack heavenly desires!

3 points from the preaching team:

1. The love of money leads to injustice!

One of the worst things about money is that the love of it leads to injustice.

James 5:4-6 says, "Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you."

Much injustice does not start with hating people but with loving money. James warns the rich person that financial injustice condemns and murders innocent people. Jesus told a parable of people love money so much that they killed the heir to an estate to try to take his inheritance. (Luke 20:14) It's not about the money. It's about treating people with justice.

2. Pride is a pitfall of wealth!

Another terrible thing about money is that it so often puffs up pride.

Jeremiah 9:23 says, "Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches."

It is almost impossible for us to not allow our view of who we are to be shaped by what we have. We do it to others too. We make judgments about who they are based on what they have or don't have. Money can easily become a way to rank ourselves among others. It can make us feel superior or entitled.

The connection of pride and money is so strong that we can even feel this pride even when we give money away. Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 6:1). The Bible speaks strongly against pride. It is contrary to the selfless character of God. It's not about the money, it's about the pride that so often comes with it.

3. Riches deceptively choke out God's Word!

Another dangerous thing about money is that it can choke out the Word of God.

Matthew 13:22 says, "As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful."

This is part of a parable that Jesus told about a sower and good soil. Money is deceitful. It appears like good soil to plant in. It promises many good things. But it actually is a thorn that chokes out the life from the plant we want to grow. We might say that we want to live by God's word and to let his truth grow in our lives but if we let the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches grow up in our lives, they crowd out the Word. It's not about the money, it's about allowing God's Word to grow in our lives.



MAY 29 ©PART 3

The Best Things About Money are Not About the Money

7 of the best things about money...

4 points from 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (Pastor Ryan's sermon):

1. Financial blessings can point us to God!
2. We can use money to be rich in good works!
3. Money can help establish a good foundation for the future!
4. Money can help us take hold of true life!

3 points from the preaching team:

1. **Use money to care for family!**

It's not about the money, it's about being able to care for the needs of our family.

1 Timothy 5:8 says, "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

God provides for our needs (Philippians 4:19). One way he does that is by giving us the ability to work to support our families. This is a use of money that makes God happy. And he allows us to participate in meeting the needs of the people around us. Money is a great thing! But it is not about the money, it is about caring for the needs of our family.

2. Use money to make friends!

It's not about the money, it's about the friendships that we make with people.

Luke 16:9 says, "And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings."

Jesus told an interesting parable (Luke 16:1-9) about a manager who was going to be fired. But before he left, he reduced the debts that people owed his boss. He did it to try to make friends so that he would have support once he became unemployed. The boss could have been upset but he commended the manager for being good with money. That is when Jesus told his listeners to use money to make friends. We can't buy friendships. There must be more to the relationship than financial favors. But we can use our money in ways that build or destroy friendship. We can look for appropriate ways to bless our friendships with our money. It's not about the money, it's about the friendship that we make with people.

3. Use money to live free!

It's not about the money it's about being free!

Proverbs 22:7 says, "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender."

When the rest of the world talks about financial freedom, they are speaking of living debt free. The Bible agrees with that and takes the freedom even further. Jesus wants to set us free in every way. The blessing of financial freedom includes being free to help others. Paul told the Ephesians, "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35). The reason Paul worked hard was not to pay off credit cards or even to store up wealth but to be free to help others. Paul had financial margin in his life that made himself available to others. Paul said to the Romans, "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8). Managing our money well can free our lives from financial stress and free up our time to serve others. It's not about the money, it's about freedom.