

## MESSAGE OUTLINE KEY: WEEK ONE

### FREEDOM:

*"I feel pulled in opposite directions over the money issue. Sometimes I want to sell all that I own, join a Christian commune, and live out my days in intentional poverty. At other times, I want to rid myself of guilt and enjoy the fruits of our nation's prosperity. Mostly, I wish I did not have to think about money at all."*

- Philip Yancey <sup>1</sup>

### WHAT IS IT ABOUT FREEDOM THAT WE DESIRE?

- No more worries
- The ability to spend freely
- To feel more in control

We long for FREEDOM so we don't need FAITH !

GALATIANS 5:13

*"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature..."*

Freedom gives us the opportunity to be GREAT not GREEDY .

Financial freedom paves the way for GENEROSITY !

<sup>1</sup> Philip Yancey, *Money: Confronting the Power of a Modern Idol* (Portland: Multnomah Press, 1985) 3.

## STEWARDSHIP:

*“The idealization of poverty is one of the most dangerous illusions of Christians... Stewardship—which requires possessions and includes giving—is the true spiritual discipline in relation to wealth.”*

*- Dallas Willard<sup>2</sup>*

A steward is someone who is simply being TRUSTED with what they do not OWN !

MATTHEW 6:19-23

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”*

## WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

Your TREASURE will determine the direction and condition of your HEART !

<sup>2</sup> Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines* (San Francisco: Harper Collins Publishers, 1988) 194.

## MESSAGE OUTLINE KEY: WEEK TWO

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7-8

*“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”*

### UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE OF PROVISION

The purpose of God's provision is to:

Fulfill His PURPOSE! Build our FAITH!

DEUTERONOMY 8:3, 15-17

*“He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.*

*He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint. In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end. Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’”*

## TRUSTING HIS PROVISION

God's provision is perfect and He wants us to place our FAITH solely in HIM !

God TESTS our hearts because He wants us to have the right kind of ATTITUDE toward Him and His commandments.

When we are humble, and our trust for all that we need and desire is in God, we are on the path of becoming a steward, which leads to contentment and generosity.

STEWARDSHIP begins by FAITH !

What you HAVE is what you've been TRUSTED WITH .

## ACT LIKE A STEWARD

- SPEND on purpose!
- Start to see your MONEY as His PROVISION !

## MESSAGE OUTLINE KEY: WEEK THREE

### WHAT DOES GENEROSITY LOOK LIKE?

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

*“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

Generosity is largely undefined, so it is largely ignored. We simply do not prioritize generosity in our spending.

### WHY SHOULD I GIVE TO THE LOCAL CHURCH?

The local church is organized to STEWARD the work of God in your COMMUNITY !

We must approach stewardship with DILIGENCE, both PERSONALLY and CORPORATELY!

As a church, we are accountable to God for the resources we are trusted with, working diligently to ensure they are used only for His purposes.

### TANGIBLE TRUST

Giving tells our HEARTS where to go!

### WHY WE DON'T GIVE

- We are AFRAID to GIVE!
- We simply FORGET to GIVE!
- We have not PLANNED to GIVE!

## GENEROSITY

GENEROSITY is a matter of your HEART not your WALLET .

- Give SOMETHING !
- Give CONSISTANTLY !
- Give a PERCENTAGE !

## FOUNDATION FOR GREAT STEWARDSHIP

- You are preparing to be a great steward by:
- Spending LESS than you EARN !
- Learning to TITHE !

You are made to be a GIVER!

ACTS 20:35

*"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

GENEROSITY fuels CONTENTMENT so make a plan to be generous!

## MESSAGE OUTLINE KEY: WEEK FOUR

### WHY WE AVOID THIS TOPIC:

We see debt as NORMAL & NECESSARY !

We are OVERWHELMED & EMBARRASSED !

### INTEGRITY OF HIS IMAGE

As followers of Christ, we give our WORD !

Your reputation is a REFLECTION of Christ!

### A SIMPLE PRINCIPLE:

PROVERBS 22:7

*"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."*

As long as you OWE money, you OWE money!

When you spend money that you never had to begin with, you are not free to even respond to God!

### THE TRUTH

We have used GOD'S MONEY for OUR PURPOSES !

## FINDING FREEDOM

Stop BORROWING !

Make a PLAN !

## FOUNDATION FOR GREAT STEWARDSHIP

You are preparing to be a great steward by:

- Spending LESS than you MAKE !
- Learning to TITHE!
- Eliminating CONSUMER DEBT!

## THE SNOWBALL!

DEFINE your debt!

PRIORITIZE your debt!

PAY your debt!

## MESSAGE OUTLINE KEY: WEEK FIVE

### ENGAGING

We need to ENGAGE in COMMUNITY to become great stewards!

Community is simply living the Christian life with people you know & spend time with.

### 3 OBSTACLES THAT KEEP US FROM ENGAGING

- We don't want to talk about MONEY .
- We don't think anyone can/will HELP .
- We don't want to feel JUDGED .

### COMMUNITY IS KEY TO GREAT STEWARDSHIP

Community provides ACCOUNTABILITY as we learn to become great stewards!

Accountability is GOD'S ENCOURAGEMENT and HELP manifested through others.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9 (NLT)

*"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed."*

HEBREWS 10:24-25

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit*

*of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

EPHESIANS 4:15 (NLT)

*“...Speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.”*

Community produces MOMENTUM for the mission of God!

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19 (NLT)

*“Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.”*

When a community LEVERAGES their lives TOGETHER  
people are HELPED and God is SEEN !

## YOUR NEXT STEPS

Invite at least one other Christian friend into the DETAILS of your  
FINANCES !

Pay attention to opportunities to LEVERAGE your community !

## MESSAGE OUTLINE KEY: WEEK SIX

## WITHOUT A PLAN, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

WITH OUT A PLAN, we are left at the mercy of our DESIRES.

LUKE 12:16-21

*And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry." But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

This is the place where you define your life as a steward! The rich man simply asked himself a question. It is THE question regarding stewardship: "What shall I do with what I have?"

## FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Financial FREEDOM positions us for financial SERVICE !

We want for everyone to be FINANCIALLY POSITIONED to RESPOND to God with God's!

## SEEING AS GOD SEES

What you SEE determines your DIRECTION !

## SET SOME SIMPLE GOALS:

During this study, there are three main factors we have learned that will set us firmly on the path to being financially positioned to respond.

- SPEND less than you EARN .
- Be freed from CONSUMER DEBT .
- Become a TITHER .

We want you to see FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP as a DISCIPLINE !

We are going to approach this discipline by doing something about it every day!

## CONSISTENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Look at this every day!
- Plan what you will do!
- Pray for wisdom and discipline with His provision!
- Remain accountable for the progress you've made!

Stewardship is a LIFESTYLE not a WAY OUT !