

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline 22 November 2015 (John Robertson)
Stewardship – 3
Positioned to Bless

To be great stewards we must develop certain financial habits that will position us to be able to bless others.

1. God is My Source

Our source and our security are in God. God is the source of my security, not how much money I make in life.

“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant.” Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV)

God wants you to be productive and His plan for your life includes wealth production, or wealth creation. As disciples what’s mine is really God’s and I’m willing to follow His guidelines in stewarding it.

2. Make Money Honestly

If you want to position yourself to be a blessing to others then you must be honest in your business dealings. God blesses integrity.

Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live. Proverbs 15:27 (ESV)

Common ways we can be dishonest with finances:

- Not giving a full day's work. Christians of all people should be known for our integrity and honesty and hard work.
- Misusing resources at the office.
- Fudging on your taxes is a dishonest way to make money.

The Lord demands accurate scales and balances; he sets the standards for fairness. Proverbs 16:11 (NLT)

3. Honour God First

Whatever I want God to bless, I put Him first in. If I want God to bless my finances, I put him first in my money.

Giving requires faith and trust that God will supply (Malachi 3:10). It's also a way of celebrating and giving thanks for what God has already supplied.

Tithing is an act of worship.

Honour 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 (NIV)

Why tithe? It's teaching us to always put God first in our life (Deuteronomy 14:23). God doesn't need our money; He wants what it represents – our trust in Him.

4. Commit it all to God

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.
Proverbs 16:3 (NLT)

When we commit our ways to God this is a very intentional discipleship decision. This must be evident in every area of our life including our finances – this is what it means to be a good steward.

For most people money becomes such a stress point. Our lives aren't meant to be driven by other forces but instead be directed by God as we commit our ways to Him.

Discussion Questions

1. Deuteronomy 8:18 tells us that only God gives us the ability to produce wealth. We must develop the habit of making resources, not wasting them. If we have security in God, why do you think there is so much tension in our lives concerning money?
2. Describe what life changes you could make so your life more deeply reflects God as your source.
3. Proverbs 16:11 states “The Lord demands fairness in every business deal; he sets the standard.” Whether you are in business or not, how can you display fairness in your dealings with every individual?
4. Read the following and discuss your opinion on tithing. Proverbs 3:9 –10; Malachi 3:10; Deuteronomy 14:22-26; Exodus 23:19; Deuteronomy 26:10-11.
5. Most of us do things out of order. When it comes to money, we: 1) spend it; 2) worry about it; 3) repay it; 4) save it; 5) give it. Discuss what you think God’s order might be.