

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. When you think about money, what word best describes your attitude and why? (Save, give, control, steward, fear, or love).

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. How was the subject of money handled or discussed in your home growing up?
3. How is the subject of money handled or discussed in your home now, in my adult life?
4. Pastor Ruben shared some facts about giving in churches today. Are you surprised by any of these facts?
 - Today, the average Christian gives about 2.5 percent of their income.
 - The average donation by adults who attend Protestant churches is about \$10 a week.
 - It is estimated only 3 to 5 percent of the people who donate money to a church tithe (10%) their income.
 - Christians are giving at 2.5% of income; during the Great Depression it was 3.3%.(ChurchLeaders)
 - People who earn less give more.
5. Please read the following verses and talk about them. Matthew 6:21-24.
6. Please read the following Old Testament verses about tithing and giving. What does each passage teach us today? (Deut 14:22-23; Lev 27:30; Mal 3:6-10)

7. What percentage is a tithe?
8. What are your thoughts about John Ortberg's quote?
"Money will try to make you less desperate for God. Money will try to make you forget in a real, concrete, moment-by-moment, generosity producing way that I am a sinner saved by grace, and every gift I have, my body, my mind, my IQ, my education, my experience, all that stuff is a gift from God."
9. What was the only thing Jesus complimented the Pharisees on? (Luke 11:42).
10. What do you think about Randy Alcorn's quote?
"Tithing is the training wheels of giving."
11. Please read about the Macedonian Church. What did these Christians look like? (2 Cor 8:1-5). Compare this to 2 Cor 9:6-7.
12. According to this story, what's more important than money? (Luke 12:13-21)

Application

Did you write someone's name down on PRAY? (If not, pick someone now that you will pray for)

- **Pray for them every day, between now and Christmas Day.**
- **Commit to inviting them to church sometime between now and Christmas Eve services.**

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