**Money Matters**

**Recession-Proof Your Finances: Part 1**

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# SERMON DESCRIPTION FOR ONLINE

God has a plan to prosper your life. His plans are supernatural. He uses natural means and human ability.

# SERMON QUESTIONS & OBJECTIVES

1. What do they need to know?

* God is faithful to prosper those that are in covenant with Him.

1. Why do they need to know it?

* It is critical that we have the appropriate understanding of God and His nature.

1. How should we apply it?

* Follow God’s principles of finances.

# OPENING LINE

God’s plans are the absolute best for us, always!

# INTRODUCTION OF THE SERMON

Has anyone ever rust-proofed their car? You do it in hopes that you will protect your vehicle.

My two personal desires in presenting the sermon series:

1. That you would comprehend the heart of the Father towards you and your finances
2. That you would understand my only desire is that you prosper, and that money would not be an issue for you.

# CENTRAL TRUTH

***God desires to bless you beyond the ability to just pay your bills. He does not want you under the stress of financial pressure.***

# MAIN PASSAGE

**Moses Instructed the People of God as They Enter the Promised Land**

**Deuteronomy 8:18**

"And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

**The Apostle John Encourages the Believers in Christ**

**3John 1:2**

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

**1Chronicles 29:11-12**

11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all.

12 Both **riches and honor** come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

**Main Scripture**

**The Temple Tax**

**Matthew 17:24-27**

**24**When they had come to [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+17%3A24-27&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23725a)]Capernaum, those who received the *temple* tax came to Peter and said, “Does your Teacher not pay the *temple* tax?” **25**He said, “Yes.” And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?” **26**Peter said to Him, “From strangers.” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free. **27**Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+17%3A24-27&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23728c)]piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.”

Consider the financial principles of the story. Jesus uses:

* SUPERNATURAL POWER
  + The first fish that Peter catches has a coin in its mouth, and it will be the exact amount for both Jesus and Peter to pay the temple tax
  + Supernatural power is something that God does for His people.
* NATURAL MEANS
* The fish, the coin and the sea are all on the earth
* Principal: Your means are found on the earth; they are not going to fall from heaven.
* HUMAN ABILITY
  + Jesus relies on Peters’ skill and ability (fishing) to pay the taxes
  + Peter was an excellent fisherman
  + Principal: God will use your skills, both hard and soft skills, to bless you and prosper you.

The temple tax was collected for the upkeep of the temple.

# TRANSITION STATEMENT

***May you have enough money that it would never be an issue for you, and may you never have so much money that it will be an issue for you.***

# MAIN POINTS

How does God prosper His people? What is the Biblical formula?

**Key Thoughts: What You Need to Know About God’s Nature and Money**

1. Everything and every blessing you need is on the earth
2. Every good and perfect gift comes from God
3. God responds to His word and financial principles - He honours His word above His name.
4. **Power - Supernatural**
5. A divine act of providence that supersedes natural laws. The demonstration of the Kingdom of God always comes with power as God desires to show His ability and desire to bless people. The ministry of Jesus Christ was filled with supernatural acts including the multiplication of resources that blessed individuals.
6. Through various biblical stories and examples, God shows His power and strength as He impacts the lives of Israel, the body of Christ, and those that serve Him with a faithful heart.
7. For example, Jesus directed the disciples to cast their net on the other side of the boat, and the result was the greatest catch ever
8. Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish on two occasions, in which He fed thousands of people
9. Elijah was fed by ravens as commanded by God
10. Elijah and the widow with the jars of oil that did not run out.

1. **People**
2. God uses relationships and networks to bless His people. Through divine favour and grace, God pours His blessing on certain individuals to bless others.
3. This is an act of the Lord’s kindness and causes people to be attracted to you and be kind to you as they are motivated by God.
4. This may involve believers that bless other believers or even sometimes the ungodly and pagans are used to accomplish God’s divine will.
5. For example:
6. The Church at Philippi partnered with the Apostle Paul to do the work of the ministry
7. The women that supported the earthly ministry of Jesus
8. King Artaxerxes that supported Nehemiah in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem
9. How are our relationships obtained?
10. Relationships must be cultivated and developed, they are built over time, and they require intentionality.
11. **Wisdom** 
    1. Wisdom is the right use and application of knowledge – it involves areas such as understanding and discernment

* 1. This means prospering through solving problems for others
  2. How do you obtain wisdom?

1. James writes that the child of God can ask and pray for wisdom, in other words, it comes through petition. Furthermore, he states that God is faithful to grant it to those that ask of Him and that He provides it plentifully.
   1. For example, Daniel prospered through his:
2. Wisdom
3. Solution management
4. Excellent Spirit
   1. Joseph was prospered by Pharaoh because of his ability to interpret Pharoah’s dream
   2. Wisdom includes the following:
5. The wheel to improve oneself
6. Making room for the will of God
7. Applying knowledge and understanding as appropriate
8. Gaining more wisdom
9. Applying skill, discernment, and know-how.

1. **Diligence - Hard Work**
   1. God not only celebrates hard work, but He pours His blessing upon those that are dedicated and faithful. Even in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were given work and assignments (this was prior to the fall).
2. Through hard work and dedication to one’s career or calling
3. Diligence is a respectable attribute with God – your work should speak for you/of you.
   1. The Book of Proverbs:
4. An entire book is devoted to hard work and diligence. King Solomon and others provide insights and keys to increasing diligence and their benefit
5. Through hard work great things are accomplished and many things are produced. The believer must never be afraid to produce what has been invested in them
6. It is not only about hard work, but it must come through honesty and integrity – the Lord is well pleased with these two things and honours them within His children.
7. **Seed and Harvest** 
   1. Seeding and harvest is a spiritual principle, and it runs through the entire Bible. In fact, everything that God provides begins in seed form and grows from there.
   2. The Bible states that God gives “seed to the sower”, specifically, it is the responsibility of the individual to plant seed to gain a harvest.
   3. The challenge with many of God’s people is that they do not recognize the seed and rather than planting the seeds they have been given they instead eat the seed which results in zero harvest.
   4. Through the law of nature, God shows us that we plant in one season and harvest in another. However, in the case of Isaac, God did something supernatural—He harvested in the same season that he planted.
   5. The more one plants, the more seed they will be provided by God and obviously the greater the harvest.
   6. If you are struggling financially in the season, it could mean that you did not plant in the previous season.
8. **Giving** 
   1. God Himself is the greatest giver; He sent His Son Jesus. The principle of giving begins in the Book of Genesis and ends in the Book of Revelation. It is one of the ways of God that He utilizes through the children of Israel and the body of Christ.
      1. Daily He loads us with benefits

Psalms 68:19

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation! Selah

* 1. Consider some of the purposes of giving:

1. It breaks selfishness within human nature
2. It blesses and impacts others
3. It allows the believer to be like God
4. He demonstrates the love and care of the Father to individuals that may not know Him
5. Initiates the law of seeding and harvest.

* 1. There are examples of giving in the Word of God:

1. The tithe
2. Honoring the poor
3. Sacrificial giving
4. Generosity.

# QUOTES & STICKY STATEMENTS

Far too many people indicate that they belong to the Kingdom of God but continue to behave according to the principles of the world.

If you are continuously having financial problems something is definitely wrong along the chain.

*God has the power, the ability, and the desire to recession-proof your finances.*

*We need to place value on the promises and the character of God.*

*Greed is the world’s system, not God’s system. God’s system is generosity.*

*Giving is about the heart and understanding the heart of God. (Matthew 17:24-27)*

*Supernatural power: God has divine authority over recessions.*

*God wants to bless us by using what we know, what we have. (Malachi 3:11)*

**STATISTICS**

**APC Congregational Survey Feedback**

* 11% of respondents do not agree that we help them find ways to use their gifts including their finances effectively, however, 61% absolutely agree
* Giving
* 61% give 10% or more
  + 7% do not give
  + 17% working towards giving 10%
  + 15% are casual givers (i.e., they give us they are able)
* How secure do people feel in paying their monthly expenses
* 40% are never concerned
* 45% sometimes concerned
* 15% often concerned.
* Safety, food, and housing
* 55% never worry
* 32% sometimes worry
* 14% worry often.

**Biblical Statistics About Finances**

* 16 out of 38 of Jesus’ parables deal with money and possessions
* Nearly 25% of Jesus’ words in the New Testament deal with[biblical stewardship](https://get.tithe.ly/blog/stewardship-bible)
* 1 out of 10 verses in the Gospels deal with money
* There are more than 2,000 scriptures on [tithing in the Bible](https://get.tithe.ly/blog/106-bible-scriptures-about-giving), money, and possessions in the Bible, which is twice as many as faith and prayer combined.

# SERMON CONCLUSION

The benefit of giving to God is that He rebukes the devourer from destroying our wealth through sickness, curses, and other acts of evil.

**Malachi 3:11**

"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts;…

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your belief about the nature of God and finances?
2. Discuss 10 ways in which the Book of Proverbs encourages diligence and hard work.
3. Discuss the principle of seed and Harvest. How does it work? Provide some biblical examples.
4. How does God provide wisdom liberally? What does this look like in real life?
5. Why do you believe the Bible speaks so much about money, wealth, and finances? What does this tell you about God? What does it tell you about the importance of riches within life?
6. Who is the devour that the Lord is addressing in the Book of Malachi? How does the tithe rebuke the devour?
7. Discuss how the principal of seeding and harvest work. Other than money, what else can be a seed that needs to be planted? Provide five examples.