



Friday November 6, 2015

Treat money like a gift, not a god. Remember that God owns it all, and he expects you to make good use of his property. Thank God for being a loving and generous Father who provides for his children's needs. Find comfort and reassurance in Jesus' words:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:25-33

In sum, the Bible gives us a simple message: Don't let your life be ruled by money. Seek God first and foremost—even in your financial dealings—and all else will fall into place.

Paul instructs Christians to give no more than can be given cheerfully—and never out of a sense of obligation. *"Each man should give what he has decided*

in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver,” 2 Corinthians 9:7.

The New Testament teaching on money and generosity seems to raise the bar in many ways. A right attitude, not a rigid amount, is the barometer to correct giving to God. If this proper perspective is in place, the proportion will take care of itself. With this in mind reflect on your Built to Last journey and what step God is calling you to. Make a commitment to either get on the ladder somewhere or to take a step up the ladder.

Reflect:

Step 1: First-time Giver.

Are you at a starting point in your generosity? If so, is this the step God is calling you to take?

Step 2: Consistent Giver.

Do you have a plan in place where you will either weekly or monthly be generous?

Step 3: Intentional Giver.

Are you being prompted by God to take this step and regularly give 1/10 to God?

Deuteronomy 14:23 (LB) “The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.”

Step 4: Sacrificial Giver.

Do you feel God challenging you to make changes to your current lifestyle so you live in such a way to have more money to give away as God leads?

Step 5: Legacy Giver.

Have you moved beyond asking God how much he is asking you to give to now asking “How much are you asking me to keep”? Do you think more long-term and more about changing your lifestyle so that you can be more generous? If so, pray about how God is challenging you in this.