

Bless This Mess Part Three

Mastering Your Finances

Introduction

Read: Matthew 6:19-21, 24-25

1. The passage we just read gives us wisdom in managing and investing our finances, not just for our life on earth, but for eternity!
2. Being able to have all the money to buy whatever we want feels great! But we must make sure that we aren't ruled by or obsessed over our finances.
3. Part of being a good steward is learning how to honour God by managing our finances well and learning how to invest into God's kingdom.
4. As we manage the finances God has given us in His way, He blesses our finances.
5. Let's delve into some principles we can follow to become better stewards of our finances!

I. Allocate Your Finances

A. God desires for us to invest into eternal things like His kingdom. In order to do that, we need to allocate and the best part of our finances for it (v19-20).

B. Tithe before using your money for anything else.

Titling is an act of faith that acknowledges that everything we have, including our finances, come from God.

C. Create a simple and sustainable budgeting system.

E.g. Set aside a specific amount of your allowance every month for your transport, for food, or for a rainy day!

D. Stop splurging and start allocating a specific amount each month to save!

Discuss!

Connect group leader to facilitate sharing with the Connect Group members.

What is the one thing you know you need to cut down immediately to better allocate your finances?

E.g. Taking cabs, going for meals beyond your budget, etc.

II. Give Generously To God's Kingdom

A. We can choose to give generously instead of worrying for the future, because God promises to provide for what we need if we manage our finances wisely (v25).

- B. Prepare your weekly offering to God, and don't come to services empty-handed.**

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

- Proverbs 3:9-10

- C. Be consistent in giving each week – even if the amount is small.**

- D. Participate in missions and sacrificial giving.**

Don't miss out on opportunities to be part of a giving church! Start making it a point to participate in the giving each week.

III. Trust God To Provide For Our Financial Needs

- A. God is in control of our lives and we can trust Him to provide for our needs (v25).**

- B. Prioritise being part of God's house over earning money (v24).**

E.g. Find part-time jobs that won't clash with our church commitments, allocate amounts to give and give up buying things we don't really need, etc.

- C. Pray for a fresh perspective on our finances - that we would not be focused on getting things but learn how to surrender our finances to God.**

- D. Declare God's provision over our lives!**

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:19

Conclusion

1. In order to use our finances wisely, we need to first learn how to budget consistently.
2. We need to personally breakthrough in our giving to the church.
3. We have to remind ourselves that God will never short-change those who depend on Him!

Prayer Points:

- a) Pray that we would start being responsible stewards of our finances.
- b) Pray that we would not excuse ourselves from participating in church giving.
- c) Spend a minute or two declaring who our God is and what He has done for us!

**Give opportunities for visitors to receive Christ and members to re-dedicate their lives to Jesus.*