

**January 21<sup>st</sup> 2012 – Sunday School (Stewardship – A Matter of the Heart)**

1. Why is money so important to God?
  - a. A matter of the heart
  
  - b. Beliefs and Values drive behavior/actions
  
2. Owner/Steward relationship
  - a. The Master is:
  
  
  - b. The Steward/Servant should be:
  
3. Our Goal – what does a godly steward look like
  
  
4. Stewardship/Giving in action - Video
  
5. Our Motivation
  
  
6. Obstacles
  
  
7. Our Action Plan

## **God Owns Everything, and We Are His Managers**

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."  
But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...

Psalms 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Haggai 2:8

"The silver is mine and the gold is mine," declares the LORD Almighty.

Matthew 25:21

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

Romans 11:36

For from him and through him and to him are all things...

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

...You are not your own; you were bought at a price...

## **God Is Generous**

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you-a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant-then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Matthew 7:11

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 9:8,11

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

1 Timothy 6:17

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1 John 3:16-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

### **Wealth Is Fleeting, and Accumulation Is Dangerous**

Mark 10:25

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Luke 6:24

But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

Luke 16:25

But Abraham replied, "Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony."

1 Timothy 6:9-10

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

### **Heaven, Not Earth, is My Home**

Psalms 39:5

...the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath...

Psalms 90:10

The length of our days is seventy years-or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

Philippians 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven...

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world ... to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Hebrews 11:25-26

[Moses] chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

Matthew 6:19-20

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves

break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 19:27-29

Peter answered him, 'We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?' Jesus said to them, 'I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.'

### **Our Hearts Follow Our Money**

Matthew 6:19-21

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Mark 10:21

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

### **God Prospers Us Not to Raise Our Standard of Living, but Our Standard of Giving**

Luke 3:11

John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

Acts 4:32, 34-35

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

Romans 12:13

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 13-15

...Excel also in the grace of giving. Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

James 2: 15-16

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

### **Bishop Hannington – link to video**

In 2001 Western Uganda was at war. One town led by Hannington Bahemuka chose to focus on what they had and trust God to rebuild their war-torn town through their own generosity.

<http://vimeo.com/32346180> or [http://graceofgiving.net/bishop\\_hannington](http://graceofgiving.net/bishop_hannington)

## **Resources**

### **Books**

The Treasure Principle – Randy Alcorn

Money, Possessions and Eternity – Randy Alcorn

Desiring God – John Piper (Chapter 7 – Money: The Currency of Christian Hedonism)

Crazy Love – Francis Chan

Signs of Life – David Jeremiah (Chapters 29-35; Open Hands: Living a Generous Life)

The Hole in our Gospel – Richard Stearns

Total Money Makeover – Dave Ramsey

Financial Peace Revisited - Dave Ramsey

### **DVDs**

Theology of Money – Randy Alcorn (see Mark to borrow)

### **Websites**

Generous Giving: <http://www.generousgiving.org/>

Eternal Perspectives Ministry (Randy Alcorn): <http://www.epm.org/>

Crown Financial: <http://www.crown.org/>

Dave Ramsey: <http://www.daveramsey.com/home/>