

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Ble\$\$ed & Wi\$e | Obedience Unlocks the Blessing

Deuteronomy 28:1-6

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ²And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. ³Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ⁵Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

Ezekiel 23:19

“The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God. “You shall not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.

This week we began a new series and Redemption’s first-ever sermon series on money, *Blessed & Wise: A Biblical Understanding of Money*. In week 1 we look at how our obedience to God’s instruction unlocks His blessings for us.

As a church, we handle money generously, efficiently, and transparently. This is very important to us. Occasionally we mention the offering, we don’t pass a plate, and we never stronghold people to give. Our aim is to teach *Clear Truth* (the unfiltered Word of God) in a compassionate, compelling, and convicting way. Recognizing that many of us are in different financial spaces, we hope this series is compelling (that we’re convinced the Biblical model is best) and convicting (some of us might need to repent of greed or fear). We want to live in freedom with what messes people up the most – money!

Notes:

Wondering if is this even something we should talk about at church? Yes! Here are three reasons:

1. Jesus talked about it a lot – 16 of His 38 parables. There are over 2,000 verses – more than prayer and faith combined.
2. Statistically, it is the number one cause of stress in America. Why would the Word of God avoid such an important topic? It would fail to be relevant if it did.
3. Handling money God’s way is a super power: What if simply doing something God’s way relieved us of the #1 stressor everyone else deals with, made our marriages stronger, tied our heart to the right things, and unleashed a life of peace and joy? That’s powerful! All we have to do is do things God’s way – including money.

So, what is God’s way of handling money? What is it that leads us from stressed to blessed? This week we start with 4 rules.

Rule 1: Obedience unlocks blessing.

First, read Deut. 28:1-6, Ez. 23:19 (see left) and [Malachi 3:7-12](#).

REMINDER

God will only bless what we give or submit to Him.

If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

Romans 11:16

NOW WHAT?

Beyond simple obedience, what's our motivation?

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:20

Jesus was given for us. The Gospel reminds us of God's faithfulness. His one and only Son was His firstfruits offering and look at the return He's gotten! If He gave us His Son, surely we can trust Him with our money.

TOOLS!

If you aren't doing so already, take advantage of the free financial tools available with our Ramsey+ site license by signing up [HERE](#).

Need extra help to better manage or rescue your finances? Sign up for our upcoming Financial Peace University [HERE](#).

So, what is a tithe? The word comes from Hebrew and means "a tenth." Tithing is giving 10% of our earnings or income back to God.

We are called to start here. This is one of the few times God says to test Him on His claims (if we do it His way the outcome will be good and for our best). His blessings include favor, provision and protection. Beyond that, we can move towards Gospel generosity with freewill/firstfruits offerings (ie: we receive more, we give more).

Rule 2: We can't love both God and money.

*"No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money. **Matthew 6:24***

We must ask ourselves what we are devoted to. Money itself isn't bad, it's good and a great tool. It is the love of money that is the root of evil ([1 Tim 6:9-11](#)).

Rule #3: Wisdom creates wealth.

*Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. **Proverbs 3:9-10***

What does it mean to honor?

- **Tithe.** Give a tenth and apply wisdom to the other 90%.
- **Save.** Wisdom produces wealth.
- **Budget.** Spend with the Kingdom in mind.
- **Sow.** Make wise choices with what's left.

We can be blessed and stupid at the same time. God will take care of our needs, but that doesn't mean we'll have abundance. *Abundance is a by-product of wisdom.* It is never too late to start walking in obedience and wisdom. Work hard, be faithful, and don't go after get-rich-quick schemes.

Rule #4: You reap what you sow.

*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 Corinthians 9:6-7***

After the tithe and firstfruits and saving and budgeting to care for our families, we sow. This is where it gets fun! It's always amazing to see what God can do with us and our money when we trust Him.