

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online/Connect
- B. Being an adult is hard
- C. Why we are doing the series- To have a better life we need to be better at life.

II. WE

A. One of the hardest things about being an adult is MONEY

- B. For many of us... just the idea of money starts stressing us out, brings anxiety, makes us feel defensive (especially when someone like me starts talking about it).
 - 1. **Me**- Looking for a new car while putting this together... stressed me out... made me annoyed... why?
 - 2. Realized I have a problem... and I think it's probably a problem you have too... **I don't have enough money.**
 - 3. We get so worked up about money b/c we don't have it.
 - 4. If we had it it'd be fun to talk about it right??
 - 5. So how much is enough? Well... more than I have.
- C. We think having it will make our life better... make us happier.
 - 1. But we're never satisfied with what we have. We always think we NEED more and when we get it life will be better.
 - 2. But Maybe we FEEL like we don't have enough money b/c we don't know the real purpose of money.

D. Money is a powerful tool.

- 1. If you don't know what it's for and how to use it... it can destroy your entire life.
 - a. Lottery Winners
 - b. Professional Athletes
- 2. But if you understand its purpose and how to use it well it can make not just your life better but many others' as well.

E. It's why Jesus talked about money quite a bit...

- 1. And what we see in his teachings is this... **The purpose of money is to use it for a purpose.**
- 2. Talks about this idea in Luke's account of his life
- 3. **Not a follower**- Totally free to take it or leave it. But I think it can really make your life better and you better at life.
- 4. **Also**- I might give examples of what my family does... not to brag... we wouldn't do it without my wife making me do it.

III. GOD (Luke 12:13-34)

A. Luke Intro

B. V. 13-14

1. Seriously man?! What's your deal?

C. V. 15

1. "Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

2. **The selfish pursuit of possessions is pointless**

3. We all nod our heads and agree
4. But that's not how we actually live/feel
5. Going shopping... see that thing you didn't know you wanted but now life won't be complete without it. YOU NEED IT!!!!!!!

a. **Me with buying things for kids.**

- b. But that annoying problem comes up again... you don't have the money for it...
- c. So... credit!

6. Avg Auto Loan debt in US is \$28,033. \$1.27 trillion.

7. **Dave Ramsey-** We buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like.

8. And does it ultimately make our life better? NO! Now we are in debt and stressed and paying interest.

9. We've traded our peace for a purchase.

10. We say a life based on possessions is pointless... but our credit statements say otherwise... sorry

11. Having money and things is not bad.

12. But if they become your purpose instead of using them for their purpose, your life will be pointless and empty.

13. Jesus understands this pull on us so he tells a story to put it all in perspective.

D. V. 16-21

1. How many read that and said, "What's wrong with that?"
2. Isn't that what we are all trying to do with our 401k's, retirements funds, ROTH IRA's, etc.?
3. Isn't that why I'm working my butt off for my money now, so I can sit back and relax later?
4. Here's what's wrong with it...

E. **Go back through verses 16-19 and highlight... MY/MYSELF**

1. The problem is he thinks all of that all is HIS to use on HIMSELF.
2. "Yeah but... didn't he earn it... isn't it a result of HIS hard work and good farming skills?"
3. "Shouldn't he get to say how its used?"

F. **Go back to verse 16 and highlight "The Ground"**

1. Sure he worked, but he didn't make it rain, he didn't make the sun shine, he didn't invent photosynthesis... God did all of that.
2. Everything the man had was a gift from God.
3. See we think we own what we earn... but in reality we are simply borrowing it.
 - a. It was here before you and it'll be used by someone else after you.
4. God had invested in that man... gave him the land/rain/sun He created.
 - a. Had given Him life/parents and food and shelter to grow
 - b. And how does the man return the investment?
 - c. He could've used that to feed the people who were starving in his town.

- d. Instead his big plan is to sit on his butt and squander it on himself.
- 5. "Cool, I'm not a farmer... I'm a teacher/plumber/salesman/etc."
 - a. "I worked hard in school... I work hard to earn my money."
- 6. Who gave you the ability to go to and get through school?
 - a. The mind you use to teach or create or treat?
 - b. The body to do the labor?
 - c. God... its all a gift that he's invested in you.

7. Your life and wealth are God's investment.

- a. He' invested all of this in your life so that you can use it for His purposes... loving others.
- b. If I gave Danny \$15 and said, "Take this and take your brother and sister to the store and get yourselves something fun."
- c. And he then turned around and said, "Sweet I have \$15." Completely forgets about B and Q and buys something for \$20 borrowing the rest from Gma... How would I respond?
- d. That wasn't the purpose of what I gave him!
- 8. But that's how we view the life and wealth God has given us.
 - a. We think it's ours and we deserve more.
- 9. We are just like the rich man... we think the purpose of God's investment is our comfort and safety.
- 10. We begin trusting the gift and not the Giver...
- 11. So Jesus shows us why we can trust God and not just our stuff...

G. V. 22-32

- 1. God is the source of everything we have.
- 2. He knows what you need. He loves you. And He is for you.
- 3. What is there to worry about?
- 4. Why try to grab as much as you can and hoard it for fear of the unknown?
- 5. Then Jesus brings it all together.

H. V. 33

- 1. The purpose of money is to invest it in others.**
- 2. Being generous.
- 3. Our money is not meant to simply be spent on our wants... but to be used to invest in the lives of those around us.
- 4. Money **CAN** bring us happiness when we are generous.
- I. Law of the universe... **Generous people are happy people.**
 - 1. When you give it feels good... the more you give the better you feel.
 - 2. When you see money as a tool to help people, to make the world better... you tend to manage it better b/c you know the more you have the more good you can do.
- J. So how can we be free to be generous?
 - 1. Trusting God frees us to be generous.**
 - 2. And being generous makes us more loving.

K. V. 34

- 1. Not... where your heart is put your money there.
- 2. Your heart follows your money.
- 3. Do you want to be loving? Be generous.
- 4. What do your receipts say about who or what you are choosing to love?**

IV. YOU

A. So what do we do... how can we use our money for its true purpose and be better at life?

B. To be better at money...

C. Practice gratitude

1. Make a habit of thanking God for what He's given you.
2. It will show you that you can trust Him and not your fluctuating bank account
3. It'll remind you that He is the source of everything.

D. Give your money purpose by

1. Easiest b/c you can actually see on paper what you are doing.
2. Four step plan...

3. Giving

- a. Decide now what percentage of every dollar you are going to give away to God's purpose.
- b. Do it first... if you do it on what's left over... there's never anything left over.
- c. Liz and I give to our local church b/c we believe in it's mission and believe it's God's primary way of showing the world His love.
- d. Pick a percentage and write it down.

4. Saving

- a. Not hoard.
- b. But so you are free to be generous.
- c. You don't have to fear the unknown expenses b/c you've saved for them.
- d. You never have to say, "I'd love to give but I don't know if we'll have enough when that expense comes."
- e. So after you decide what percentage you are going to give pick a percentage to save and do that next.

5. Living

- a. Live on the percentage you have left.
- b. Not the percentage you wish you had... Act your wage.
- c. I want is better than I owe.

6. Giving some more.

- a. You'll find that if you live like this you'll actually be able to be even more generous than you thought.
- b. Liz and I giving to GoFund me.
 - 1) "How much do we have? Enough?"
- c. Generous people are happy people
- d. But you aren't free to be generous if you don't manage your money.

V. WE

- A. Wouldn't it be great to have peace about your money?
- B. To not be controlled by it but to use it on purpose for a purpose?
- C. To not ever be a burden to someone but to be able to relieve the burdens of others?
- D. Wouldn't it be great to be free to be as generous as you wish you could be?
- E. What legacy do you want to leave your children?
- F. Trust God. Manage your money well.

G. Invest your money in a better life.

