**Week 3:**

***Give Generously***

*Key phrase*: We need to give in order to break the power of money.  You can love God and have money, but you can’t love money and have God.

*Scripture*:  Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:6-12

*VIDEO link*: https://12stone.com/watch/master-your-money/give-generously/

1. Introduction
   1. Recap of where we have been
      1. The five steps in our financial journey – how do we get to the next step
      2. The five biblical financial principles
         1. Spend less than you earn
         2. Avoid the use of debt
         3. Build margin (save)
         4. Set long term goals
         5. Give generously
      3. Hear Ron explain the importance of giving in VIDEO 12
         1. Learning how we apply these principles and learn how to master our money
   2. The next two weeks we are going to unpack the last two principles together: (1) give generously and (2) set long term goals
      1. Having a long-term outlook means we are looking to eternity as well as this life and when you do that it is imperative to tie giving in to that outlook
         1. Giving won’t make sense unless you have a long-term outlook with a God-sized view
2. Set Long Term Goals
   1. Hebrews 11:1-2, 6, 13a, 16
      1. Your longest-term goal is heaven and we all are living by faith
      2. If your faith in Jesus never redefines how you view money, you need to question whether you really believe 🡪 faith in Jesus redefines everything
         1. Luke 6:38
            1. Jesus is painting a picture that everyone would understand

In the OT, the people were told to leave the edges of the field untouched so the poor could come and get grain

The poor would have lived a far distance away and so they could not come very often

As a result, they would need to take as much as they could carry when they came

They would collect the grain in their basket and then shake it and the chaff would blow out and then they would press it down – this would give them more room

Jesus is saying that when you give to God, He will provide for you

* + - * 1. This is not a get rich scheme with God, it is a get right with God – get your heart in the right place
      1. Master Your Money page 32-33 – the longer term your perspective, the better your present decision is likely to be
  1. Goals Example (feel free to use your own):
     1. Tithe (return first 10% to God)
        1. Wanted to honor God regardless – Jesus says that we can’t love God and money at the same time, so we have to make a choice
           1. You can love God and have money, but you can’t love money and have God
     2. No credit card debt
     3. Save something every paycheck (eventually 10%)
     4. No consumer debt
     5. Eventually, no car debt
     6. Kids college – debt free
     7. Cash margin (3 to 6 months of expenses)
     8. Retirement plans
     9. House debt free plans

1. Give generously
   1. When we set long term goals, we have to also be thinking about giving
   2. Ron shares with us in VIDEO 13 his thoughts on tithing
      1. Giving produces joy and who doesn’t want joy
   3. Tithe – literally means one-tenth
      1. PERSONAL TESTIMONY: Why is this a settled issue in your life?
         1. Rooted in scripture:
            1. Example passage – Malachi 3:6-10
         2. This frees up our finances
   4. Three reasons we give:
      1. God owns it all
      2. God is first
      3. I can afford to give
         1. These all flow naturally out of each other: Because God owns it all, He is first, and because He is first I can afford to give
   5. God Owns it all
      1. In VIDEO 14, Ron shares how the belief that God owns everything informs our view on giving
         1. Faith informs our finances – the most fundamental decision we make is when we agree that God owns it all
         2. “I believe we need to give to break the power of money” – Ron Blue
            1. We are either closed fisted or open handed with our money – giving allows us to live open handed

When we are closed fisted we act as if it is all mine – this is our “mine” field (and it is just as dangerous as a mine field)

* + - * 1. PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION: (a child thinking something you provided is theirs when you try to use it)

EXAMPLE STORY: you take your 2 year old to a movie theater and buy him some Skittles. During the movie you reach over to take a few and he screams at the top of his lungs, “NOOOOOOOO.”

In this story, the son forgot four things that we often forget with our heavenly father:

I provided the Skittles

I don’t need the Skittles

God doesn’t need our money – He isn’t wringing His hands when we don’t give

I have the power to take the Skittles (i.e. I’m bigger than my child)

We lose our moment of reverence with God

Parable of the man who builds bigger barns

He needs to give the Skittles

How the child responds to the father affects their relationship

Luke 12:15

POSSIBLE HANDOUT: hand out individual packages of Skittles to everyone

When you open your bag, take out one of your favorite color and set it aside and when the offering comes by put it in the offering plate – God is first

* 1. God is first
     1. Master Your Money page 240: “Preemptive giving is clearly defined in Proverbs 3:9: ‘Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase.’ To me, this means that giving to God’s work should have the first priority over all other uses of money, and therefore I give, preempting all other uses, until I have met that commitment.”
     2. PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION – tell a story of how you have given a gift, received a gift, or seen someone give a gift that resulted in change to both the giver and the recipient
        1. If God isn’t first then you really don’t trust Him, you really don’t love Him
           1. Seek first the Kingdom of God
        2. Do you struggle with worrying about the wrong things first?
           1. We have to settle what we put first
     3. CAST VISION: How does giving in your church fund what God has commanded us to do in this world?
        1. What does your congregation’s giving go to fund? – the Great Commission, the poor, widows, children, evangelism, missions, etc.
        2. Make sure to communicate that your members are a part of something bigger than just stuff – when you give to the church you are giving to something bigger than your stuff
  2. I can afford to give
     1. Whatever is last feels the pressure, and YOU get to decide the order
        1. When God is 1st, Saving is 2nd, Lifestyle is 3rd
           1. All the pressure is shifted to your lifestyle and when you run out of money you adjust your living
        2. When Lifestyle is 1st, Saving is 2nd, God is 3rd
           1. All the pressure is shifted to your giving

This is what people mean when they say they can’t afford to give – it means that giving is not a priority and God is last in my life

Whatever is first, you can afford – you can either adjust your living or adjust your giving – it all depends on what is first

* 1. In VIDEO 15, Ron provides a personal story of how generosity is not defined by how much you have

1. Conclusion
   1. You must make a decision – what are you going to do with the truth of God
   2. POSSIBLE APPLICATION: 90 Day Trust Test
      1. This is about a spiritual breakthrough and trusting God in His word
      2. Challenge people to tithe over the next 90 days
         1. Affirm that this is not about money, this is about hearts and spiritual breakthrough
         2. Offer to return their giving over these 90 days if they ever feel like they are in over their heads or this is a scam or whatever they feel
            1. This is not about the money