

Broke: Stress, Money, & the Gospel
Getting Ahead: Tithing and Bills

Mark 12:41-44

02.01.15

Driving thought: God's logic is the reverse of worldly/selfish logic; giving is the key to getting ahead.

The goal of our finances is not just to get ahead so that we can have more stuff. Rather, being free of unnecessary debt frees us to give and go where God leads us. Financial freedom is centered upon the glory of God.

Q: What is a tithe?

A: Returning to God a tenth of what He allows you to make.

Q: Is tithing only mandated under the Mosaic Law?

A: Tithing precedes the Mosaic Law and is assumed in the New Testament (Genesis 14:20, 28:22; Hebrews 7:21, 41, 55, 61).

Q: Should I give even if I'm not cheerful about it?

A: Giving changes our heart because our heart follows our money. Jesus said, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matthew 6:21).

The Widow's Offering

- Jesus watches people _____ their offerings at the Temple – 12:41
- Many rich people are giving _____ – 12:41
- A poor widow gives a gift small in _____ but massive in _____ – 12:42
- Jesus points to the sacrificial poor widow as the _____ of giving – 12:43-44

Action points

- Repent of practical atheism: trusting our eternal soul to God but refusing to trust Him with our finances.
- Confess that everything you have is on loan from God: commit everything you have to God and begin to experience freedom from slavery to money, cool stuff, and exciting experiences.

Booker T. Washington, "The happiest people in the world are those who do the most for others."

Christian financial ministries: www.daveramsey.com & www.crown.org

Key: give/big/size/percentage/standard

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