

New Valley Church: Gravity and \$

Point: God doesn't want something from you. He wants something for you-FREEDOM.

Matthew 6:24

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.**

Q: Why do you think Jesus said, "You cannot serve both God and money?" Why is it impossible to serve two masters?

Q: An idol is when we take a good thing (money, stuff, people) and make it an ultimate thing (I must have this to have a life). Why is money or the security (we think) money can bring so tempting to place as our ultimate thing?

Point: Jesus says that everyone has a master, and that we obey our masters. Ultimately this issue goes way deeper than money, and is really about worship-"Who is your true God?"

Q: Will I obey my desire for stuff and money, or will I obey God?

Q: Will I surrender myself to God and what he says about money or will I serve my own wealth and consumption?

Q: Do you tend to be a saver or spender? How do the extremes of both personality types move us towards greed?

"Greed is the assumption that it's all for my consumption. If it comes to me it's for me. If you are a spender and it comes to you it's for you to spend now. If you are a (stingy saver) hoarder and it comes to you it's for your consumption later."~**Andy Stanley**

A Biblical pattern for money:

- **Give** 10% (be generous)
- **Save** 10% (be wise)
- **Live on** 80% (be content)

Matthew 6:30-33

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' *For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Q: What does anxiety about money demonstrate? How does “seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (right way of living)” break us out of greed? When we worry what are we saying about how God thinks and cares for his children?

If you are going to get out of debt you need to be intentional.

- *Financial Peace University: <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu>*
- ***Read:*** *Dave Ramsey’s book: Complete Guide to Money (if you take financial peace you will get a copy with your registration).*

If you are going to be generous you need to be intentional.

Malachi 3:8-10

Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

- **Challenge:** For 90 Days “test” God by giving the “full tithe.”
 - Tell someone if you take this challenge
 - Let us know what you experience

Generosity flows from the gospel

- We don’t obey to get God’s acceptance (that is religion).
- We obey because we have God’s acceptance.
- God has poured out his generosity to us in Jesus, and that compels us to be generous people.

The video we showed in service comes from this site:

- <http://ilikegiving.com/story/i-like-car>