

Sunday 2/4/2024 – FINANCES

Have you ever failed at something? Did you plan it that way? Was that your plan – to fail?

There is a saying that goes like this – people don't plan to fail; they fail to plan!

But it stands to reason that because of a lack of planning/intentionality people fail – they don't achieve their desired goal.

Refuse good advice and watch your plans fail; take good counsel and watch them succeed. Prov 15:22 TM

So maybe we do plan to fail – at least set ourselves up for failure when we refuse to listen and be intentional about applying good advice to our lives.

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Matthew 12:28-30 TMG

Today's topic of conversation is on our **FINANCES**.

All the other topics we are like I agree I need to be intentional about. But this one just hits so close to home. And Jesus knew that and understood that and that's why he spent more time talking about this topic than any other. And its why we focus so much on all the other topics – because we know this is the hardest one to master.

Jesus said – you cannot serve two masters – love one hate the other and vice versa – you cannot serve both God and money.

If we are mastered by our money, we will never find and live in those rhythms of grace – we will never live freely and lightly!

We are going to lay out a plan that is simple and doable for every single person no matter what your income is. Don't think that you must make a certain amount of money for this to work.

Be intentional about these 5 things and you will master your money...

Work Steadily

Budget Intentionally

Give Purposefully

Spend Wisely

Save Consistently



1. Work Steadily

How many of you have a job, or work more than one job?

This is the one we all are doing pretty good at. We know we must work to have the basics and everything else in life. We work, we work steadily, we work hard, we work long hours, some of us work more than one job.

Some key points from last week's message.

Be intentional about seeing the blessing in our work.

Be intentional about who we are working for.

Be intentional about the impact our work is having.

Sometimes we need to be reminded of those things don't we. Work is not a curse. It is part of Gods plan for our lives. After God had created everything, the bible says...

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Gen 2:15 NIV

The "work it" part we got – taking "care of it" might need some intentionality on our part!

2. Budget Intentionally

A budget is like a road map. It lets you know when you are on course and when you're not. The Bible is clear about us being good stewards of what we have and gives warnings about what will happen if we're not. For example, the bible tells us to learn from the ant...

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! (7) It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, (8) yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. Prov 6:6-8NIV

Money will never do us any good if we don't understand how to manage it.

3. Give Purposefully

While this is #3 on the list, we are going to skip it for now and if we have time, we will come back to it.

4. Spend Wisely

Ever make an unwise purchase? In other words, ever buy something you wish you hadn't? Ever buy something that you knew before you bought you shouldn't, but you did it anyway? Spend Wisely – spend within your means.

Questions

Why am I buying this?
Do I need it or want it?
Can I afford it?
Is it the wise thing to do?

A budget is only as good as we stick to it. The Bible gives this advice...

Of what use is money in the hand of a fool since he has no desire to get wisdom? Prov 17:16NIV

We don't plan to fail we just fail to plan or stick to the plan!

5. Save Consistently

This seems to be harder than ever for people to do. One reason is we're bombarded with the mentality to live for today because we don't know what tomorrow will bring. With that kind of thought process, it's hard to put money into some kind of savings and just let it sit there without spending it. Especially when there is so many New and Improved out there.

We know that God should have 1st place in our lives. But the thing that often keeps Him from that 1st place position is our finances.

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Prov 3:9-10 NIV

Do you know why we struggle so much financially? Because we don't follow Godly advice. We allow our finances to master us instead of mastering our finances! Jesus Matthew 6 – seek first...and all these things will be given to you!

Bring the whole tithe into the store house...

Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. Malachi 3:6-10 NIV