



RIGHT ON THE MONEY

Exploding the Myth

#nprmoney

Week 1

1 of 4

February 5, 2017

Bottom Line: God owns it all; we are stewards/managers.

Icebreaker: What was your first job, and what was the hourly pay?

Key Verse: *Yours, O Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all.*

1 Chronicles 29:10-11

“. . . the word ‘mine’ in its full sense can not be uttered by a human being about anything . . . (God) says ‘mine’ of everything based on the fact that He made it.” – C.S. Lewis

We as humans get caught up in the “mine, mine, mine” game from the time we are toddlers, uttering our very first words to obtain or maintain “our stuff.” David attacked and beat that human tendency. The story in 1 Chronicles 29 demonstrates the joy in recognizing that “mine” is a myth, and that managing my resources for the Owner leads to the greatest satisfaction in life. David led his people in willingly giving to God with abandon. They changed their mentality from “How much do I HAVE to give?” to “What can I do to enable me to give more with what God has given me?”

They developed an understanding of the difference between ownership and stewardship. Ownership says, “This is mine and I will give you some. Stewardship says, “It is all God’s . . . I am a faithful and grateful manager.” A faithful manager looks at his resources and says, “God, what would you like to see happen with all You have entrusted to me? I want to use all my stuff, which is really not my stuff, in such a way to build Your kingdom, not simply invest in my own.”

That’s the wise and wonderful choice. It puts us in cooperation with the true Owner – it all belongs to Him, comes from Him, and is disbursed by Him.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight’s message, is there anything that was a new thought to you?

David’s unselfishness and his understanding that God was the Owner of it all was shown in his all-out effort for the massive capital campaign to build a building he knew he would never finish building or even see. Letting go of our money to God is also letting go of control over the exact outcome. How hard is it for you to give money to God’s purposes without having a final say in the disposition?

What would you say to a person who says tithing is an Old Testament deal and not expected of Christians today?

How far are you personally on the journey from “mine” to “His”? What has been a personal highlight or “aha” moment on the journey?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

David says the people gave willingly, with a whole heart. What would be the evidence of willing, wholehearted giving?

Honestly, looking at your life right now, would you say most of the time you are a reluctant giver, a habitual giver, or a joyful giver? What could move you up in positive emotion and excitement about giving?

What do you consider “mine” that you have never considered as given to you by God? Your house? car? education? How would your management of that resource change if you consciously reminded yourself you only have it because God is allowing you to have it?

Make a quick mental list of the major resources that God has put you in charge of. Thank Him and ask for wisdom.

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Occasionally a church family will get a bit proud and possessive of what "we" have, and resist using their resources with an open hand. Pray together and ask God to help you realize that your church and its resources came from God and are His. Ask Him to help you always hold and manage them with an open hand.
- 2) Read the key verse aloud together, and then pray the Lord's prayer aloud together or have one individual pray it for you. Note how Jesus was teaching us to pray with the recognition that it is all His.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: God owns it all; we are stewards/managers.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Psalm 24:1

Day 2: 1 Chronicles 29:12

Day 3: Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Day 4: 1 Corinthians 12:11

Day 5: 1 Timothy 6:7

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)