

THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE

HANDOUT

Session 2: The Spirituality of Giving

REVIEW

Randy introduced this session by describing the **first key** to the treasure principle: “God owns everything; I am His money-manager.” What are the practical implications of God being the owner of your money?

Randy pointed out that everything we have—our money and the stuff we buy with it—is on-loan from God. Who do our behavior and attitudes often portray as the owner?

If the concept of God owning everything is new to you, what might need to change in your habits toward money? How?

Even if the concept of our stewardship isn’t new to you, what areas in your life might you be acting as if you’re an owner, rather than manager?

Randy asked the question that, if everything we have belongs to God, shouldn’t we be asking Him what He wants us to do with His stuff? Have you ever asked yourself what God may want you to do with the things He’s given to you? If so, what conclusion did you arrive at? If not, why not?

As Christians, we owe our very lives to the generosity of God through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Instead of telling God “thanks for saving me” and hoarding our money, what should grace compel us to do?

What would it look like to give to others with the same kind of grace God showed to us?

In the real life story, Jennifer responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to give rather than get, and she discovered true joy. What kind of impact did Jennifer have on the woman whose prescription she paid for? What difference did it make in Jennifer?

How have you heard the Holy Spirit in the past? What did it sound like? Look like? Feel like?

Matthew 6:21 forms the **second key** in the treasure principle: “My heart always goes where I put God’s money.” How have you understood Matthew 6:21? What have you heard or understood the cause-and-effect relationship to be?

Randy argued that Matthew 6:21 describes the result of investing in something. How does Randy’s explanation of being an investor impact you? Does it make sense? Why or why not?

If our hearts always go where we invest God’s money, what will happen to our hearts when we start giving our money away? Where do we get our sense of security from if not from money?

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BIBLE EXPLORATION

Acts 2:42–47. Based on the passage in Acts 2, what was most worthy of investment in the minds of the Jerusalem believers? Why?

What does the Jerusalem church selling their “stuff” and investing in the poor say about their perspective of God’s kingdom?

What was the result of the Jerusalem church’s generosity toward the poor among them?

2 Corinthians 8:1–15 and Romans 15:24–28. Describe the situation Paul’s talking about. What’s going on?

What response does Paul expect from the Gentile churches?

Given the experience of the Gentiles in Asia Minor, do we ever have an excuse to avoid being generous and helping others? Why or why not?

1 Timothy 6:17–19. Where should our investments be located according to Paul’s instructions? How do we shift it to that location?

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete during the next week.

- Take Action:** Make an honest list of those things that you’re invested in: work, hobbies, or stuff. Order it from biggest investment to least. Next to each, rank the items on a scale from one to ten, with ten being “most kingdom-oriented” and one being “least kingdom oriented.” Pick one item and shift your resources toward something more kingdom-centered.
- Perspective Shift:** Make a list of your resources: time, money, skills, hobbies, etc. After each item, write the words “belongs to God.” Post this list somewhere you’ll see it on a regular basis: your bathroom mirror, in your car, or on the refrigerator.
- Memorize:** Memorize the first two keys to the treasure principle: “God owns everything and I am just His money manager,” and, “My heart always goes where I put God’s money.” Whenever you spend money this week, remind yourself of those two truths.
- Interact:** Sit down with a ministry leader—your pastor, director of a food pantry, a missionary—and ask them what kind of time and money they need to do their ministry well. Allow them to explain their needs, and ask how you might be able to invest in their work.
- Pray:** At least one time this week, ask God specifically to reveal to you through the Holy Spirit one way in which you can reinvest your money into something kingdom-focused. And also ask that He give you the courage and strength to respond when the Holy Spirit *does* prompt you.