

Building for the Future 3: Kingdom Investment

Intro:

- Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables of Jesus were concerned with how to handle money and possessions.
- The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions.

Ten Reasons Why We Give

(with thanks to Andy Chapman, Riverside Vineyard)

1. We give... as an act of worship

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

True & proper worship involves sacrifice & surrender of the whole of our lives, which includes the financial.

2. We give... out of obedience

Obeying God in this area is actually far more achievable than many other areas which the bible calls us to obey in e.g;

- **Love Everyone** including our enemies
- **Forgive** whatever the circumstances
- **Take real care** what we look at
- **Have the same attitude as Jesus**

3. We give.... because what we do here & now affects eternity

Matt 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- It's a privilege to give to a local church & directly impact peoples eternal destiny
- I don't want to live with regret wishing that I had invested more in God's kingdom



4. We give... to reflect God's nature

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world **that he gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*

- God is the ultimate giver
- His generosity and sacrifice on behalf of us is beyond measure
- We should aim to grow in how we reflect of God's nature

5. We give... because what we do affects what others do.

Gal 6:7 - A man reaps what he sows.

What we sow in this life we will reap.

e.g. parents & children

e.g. leaders & pastoral staff

6. We give.... because we want to be servants of God, not servants of money

Matt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

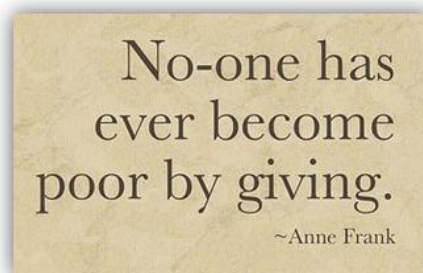
- Money is a powerful idol.
- I want to serve Jesus & only him

7. We give... to position ourselves for God's provision & protection

Malachi 3:10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my 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 there will not be room enough to store it. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty.

(NB. "Storehouse" through New Testament eyes, is best interpreted as the local church)

- If you want to be blessed be a giver.
- Important: God does NOT promise that we will be blessed financially, but he does promise that we will be subject to God's provision & protection as we give.
- We want to be the kind of fools that give because we want to experience the overflowing blessing of God as we give back to him.
- We live under grace not law... BUT
- 10% is a helpful yardstick to measure giving & generosity.



8. We give... because it feels great to give

Acts 20:35 - Paul recalls Jesus words: "it is more blessed to give than receive.."

- People who give are less stressed, have better mental health, better friendships, happier marriages and live longer
- Giving is good for your health

9. We give.... simply because we said we would give.

Eccles 5:4-5 - 4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfil it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfil your vow. 5 It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfil it.

10. We give... because we love the vision of this church

We love what God has called us to do together

We love how communities are impacted one person at a time

We love that this church shows practical compassion to those in need

We love what our money is doing.

www.winvin.org.uk/buildingforthefuture