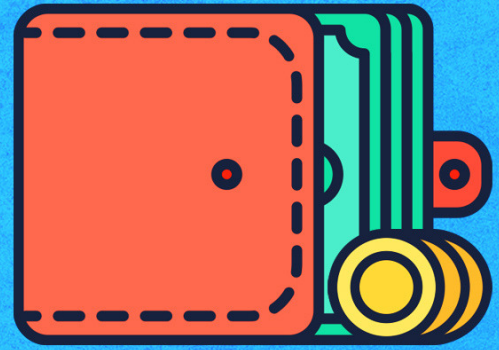


DOLLARS & \$ENSE



Part 3: A Management Mystery

Sermon Big Idea

This week we continued looking at our perspectives on money by tackling the question **Do you own your money, or do you manage it?**

The simple truth is that money goes in and out of our possession, and we can't take any of it with us when we die. It's better to realize the truth that God owns everything (Psalm 24:1) and we are managers of the money he provides. When we view money as something we actively manage, we set ourselves up to make better financial decisions.

Steps to Start Managing Money Better

1. **Spy on your Money** - Track where every cent goes
2. **Address your Spending** - What are the easy changes to make?
3. **Plan for your Future** - Create a budget with monthly expenses, short-term goals, and long-term goals. Track it every month.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever made a really bad financial decision? What did you learn?
2. How did you learn your money management skills?
3. Read **1 Kings 3:5-14**. Why is it significant that Solomon asked for wisdom instead of wealth, power, or the death of his enemies?
4. What showed that God was pleased with Solomon's request?
5. Read **Ecclesiastes 5:10-15**. Solomon was the richest person to ever live, yet he considered his wealth meaningless at the end of his life. Why?
6. Read **Matthew 25:14-30**. What stands out to you from this parable?
7. What is Jesus trying to teach through this parable? How does this parable extend beyond just the management of money?
8. How can having David's perspective from **Psalm 24:1** shift the way we view managing money and budgeting?
9. What is one step you can start to begin managing money better?

Scripture Passages

1 Kings 3: 5-14

Solomon was the third king during the united monarchy era of Israel. He asked God for wisdom, and received it, along with riches and wealth.

Ecclesiastes 5:10-15

Solomon's wisdom regarding the value of money.

Psalm 24:1

David (Solomon's father and the second king of Israel) recognized that everything belongs to God.

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about three servants who manage their master's money while the master is away.