

The Money Challenge

Sermon Outline 1

Sermon Title: "Give Generously"

Sermon Text: Luke 21:1-4



I. Introduction: Generosity

- a. Share a story of extreme generosity that you have experienced or read about
- b. Christians are called to be generous because of God's generosity towards us
- c. Introduce the series: The Money Challenge (Give Generously; Save Wisely; Live Appropriately)

II. Read the sermon text (Luke 21:1-4)

III. Point 1: Giving is to be a priority

- a. The poor woman made it a priority to give
- b. If we don't make it a priority, it will not happen

IV. Point 2: Giving is to be done proportionally

- a. The woman gave what she was able to give
- b. People with various means are able to give different amounts and in different ways

V. Point 3: Giving is to be done sacrificially

- a. The woman gave *all* that she was able to give
- b. The death of Christ was the most sacrificial act of all time, and we are called to be like him

VI. Point 4: Giving is to be done cheerfully

- a. We often picture the woman as sad, but Jesus commends her, and the Bible commands us to give cheerfully
- b. 2 Corinthians 9:7

VII. Objections

- a. "I've got to get my finances in order first"
- b. "I can't afford to be generous"

VIII. Conclusion: Start today

- a. What will you commit to give?
- b. How will you commit to increase your generosity?

The Money Challenge

Sermon Outline 2

Sermon Title: “Save Wisely”

Sermon Text: Proverbs 6:6–8



I. Introduction: Ants are fascinating insects

- a. An ant can lift twenty times its own body weight
- b. Some queen ants can have over a million babies
- c. There are more than twelve thousand species of ants in the world

II. Read the sermon text (Proverbs 6:6–8)

III. Point 1: Saving is wise

- a. Solomon praises the ant’s wisdom
- b. Saving is an aspect of wisdom

IV. Point 2: Abundance and scarcity

- a. The ant prepares in the summer and gathers in the harvest—times of abundance—to prepare for times of scarcity in the winter
- b. We, also, ought to use good times to prepare for difficult times

V. Point 3: Set saving goals

- a. The ant has to gather a set amount of food in the harvest to survive the winter
- b. We, also, ought to save with specific goals and purposes

VI. Point 4: Persistence

- a. Saving requires time and hard work
- b. Don’t give up!

VII. Objections

- a. “I don’t have enough to live on now, let alone to save”
- b. “I don’t know where to begin”

VIII. Conclusion: Start today

- a. What will you commit to save?
- b. Remember that we do not save for the purpose of our own wealth, but so that we can be generous

The Money Challenge

Sermon Outline 3

Sermon Title: “Live Appropriately”

Sermon Text: 1 Timothy 6:17–19



I. Introduction: We are rich

- a. If someone makes \$25,000 a year, that person is in the top 2 percent of the world
- b. Despite how we may feel when compared to those around us, on a global and historical scale, we are all extremely wealthy

II. Read the sermon text (1 Timothy 6:17–19)

III. Point 1: Wealth is uncertain

- a. Read Luke 12:13–21
- b. It is foolish to build up wealth—money or possessions—for ourselves; it can be gone in a moment

IV. Point 2: Ask a better question

- a. We typically ask, “How much should I give?”
- b. We should instead ask, “How much should I keep?”

V. Point 3: Getting practical

- a. Used cars
- b. Eating out
- c. Entertainment
- d. Buying a house

VI. Conclusion: Seek a better treasure

- a. Where are your treasures?
- b. Store up treasures in heaven

The Money Challenge

Sermon Outline 4

Sermon Title: "Generosity Killers"

Sermon Text: Exodus 20:17; Psalm 37:21; Genesis 2:24



I. Introduction: The world's tallest and longest slide: 584 feet

- a. If a person went into a slide and stayed there, that would be bad!
- b. The slide is meant to take the person from one end to the other...it's a *conduit*
- c. God does not want us to be hoarders, but conduits through which his generosity flows

II. Review the three previous weeks: Give generously, save wisely, live appropriately

III. Generosity killers

- a. Point 1: Keeping up with the Joneses (Exodus 20:17)
 - i. The solution is contentment
 - ii. Philippians 4:13 (I can be joyful in all circumstances...abundance *and* want)
- b. Point 2: Debt (Psalm 37:21)
 - i. The Bible calls those who don't repay debts wicked
 - ii. Debt is dangerous and should only be entered into with much caution
- c. Point 3: Disorganization
 - i. Disorganization will always hamper our generosity
 - ii. The answer...budget!
- d. Point 4: The financially separate marriage (Genesis 2:24)
 - i. Replace "mine" with "ours" in *everything*
 - ii. All things in a marriage should be shared, since "the two become one"

IV. Conclusion

- a. Quick review of the four weeks
- b. Start today