

Partnering with God #5 Time & Resources

THREE AREAS OF PARTNERSHIP

- Our Affections – God gives us passions and loves.. How to we invest those
 - o Our Attention
 - o The word of the Lord – when He talks to us
- Our Time – what does it mean to INVEST our time rather than SPEND it
- Our Resources – What does it mean that God owns everything..

Review:

1. God Owns the Earth

- Deu 10:14 (NIV) To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.

God even owns US – We belong to Him

- 1Co 6:19-20 (NIV) Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; [20] you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

- All that we have, see and enjoy on the earth belongs to God – including our bodies...

2. God has given us (humanity) authority over the earth

- Gen 1:26-29 (NIV) Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may RULE over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." [27] So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. [28] God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; REPLENISH the earth and SUBDUE it. RULE OVER the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- God has given the earth into our OUR hands to:

- REPLENISH – To care for
- SUBDUE – To use for our benefit
- RULE OVER – To Have Authority Over
- GOD HAS GIVEN INCREDIBLE WEALTH INTO OUR HANDS

WITH GREAT WEALTH COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY...

3. God's Plan is Partnership

- He created us to REIGN WITH HIM on the earth
 - He is looking for partners not spectators
- Jesus told a parable about HOW GOD INTENDS to partner with His people

THE PARTNERSHIP PARABLE - Principles

Mat 25:14-29 – The Parable of the Talents teaches: GOD'S PLAN TO PARTNER WITH HIS PEOPLE

Remember:

- A man with great riches is going on a journey
 - He called his trusted servants together
 - He entrusted his wealth to them

One command: "Put this money to work until I come back."

- o He gave to each "according to his ability."

- FIVE bags to one, TWO bags to another and ONE bag to the third
(Each of these bags was worth \$500,000 - \$1 million dollars)

The man who had received five bags put the masters money to work & gained five bags more.

The one with two bags of gold put the masters money to work and gained two more.

But the man who had received one bag took the masters money and hid it.

THE MASTER'S RESPONSE TO Servants who were PARTNERS:

- To the men who had responded to His invitation to partnership
- Those who had "put His riches to work" (out of obedience)
 - 'Well done, good and faithful servant!
 - You have been faithful with what I gave you...
 - I will put you in charge of more!
 - Come and share in my riches with me.

The Master's response to the Servant who did not partner with Him...

- The man who had received ONE bag of gold said,
 - Since you are a "hard man"
 - I was afraid and went and hid your gold in the ground.
 - See, here is what belongs to you
- You wicked and lazy servant!
 - You know who I am and how I invest my riches...
 - You should have put my money in the bank so that I would have received some interest!
- Take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.
 - WHY GIVE IT TO THE RICHEST SERVANT
 - ("Because that servant knows what to do with my riches")
- My resources are to be put to work for the benefit of everyone!
 - Not hidden and inaccessible...

"Whoever puts my riches to work will be given more, they will live an abundance.

Whoever does not put my riches to work, even what they have will be taken from them."

PRINCIPLES OF THIS PARABLE OF THE KINGDOM...

WE MUST...

- Know the Master – Who He is... What His desires are...
 - How He loves us and wants us to truly partner with us
 - That He is an INVESTOR... Someone who wants to benefit everyone!
- Recognize What He has given us – Understanding that what he has given us is VALUABLE
 - Understanding that what He has given us MUST to be "put to work"
 - It is to be INVESTED not HIDDEN
- Respond Correctly – Having the same value that God has for what He has given us
 - Not responding by fear or distrust
 - What He has given we must "Put to work" = INVEST IT
 - Not burying it
 - Not spending it on ourselves
 - INVESTING

TODAY WE ARE GOING TO LOOK INTO THE WORD OF GOD ABOUT

- MONEY & POSSESSIONS

It has been said that "Jesus talked about money more than any topic"

- That is not true
- Jesus talked about “riches” not money (includes money and possession)
 - o It’s NUMBER FOUR not NUMBER ONE
- Jesus did use money as an illustration in 11 out of 39 parables about the kingdom
 - o He used money to illustrate “what we value”
- The Actual top FIVE are
 - o Kingdom of God
 - o Faith (Believing)
 - o The Devil
 - o Riches (Money & possessions)
 - o Forgiveness

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT “RICHES” = MONEY & POSSESSIONS?

- **The Bible reveals that we often have the wrong idea about our MONEY & POSSESSIONS**
 1. We tend to GIVE our ATTENTION and AFFECTION to MAKING MONEY & gaining MATERIAL RESOURCES (when God has adequately provided us with shelter, food and our needs..
 - We can tend to give our attention to...
 - Striving and working harder and harder to make ourselves more COMFORTABLE
 - Worrying about not having MONEY or enough MATERIAL RESOURCES
 - Whether we seem to have enough or feel we don’t have enough
 - We are still focused on material possessions

BOTH (Striving and worrying) ARE IDOLATRY

 - Both responses are taking our eyes OFF JESUS & HIS KINGDOM
 - Both responses are a false belief that MORE RICHES will make me MORE COMFORTABLE
 - Will more stuff make you more comfortable?
 - Will more money make you happy?
 - Jesus had a lot to say in the Bible about the pursuit of riches

FIVE PRINCIPLES FROM THE BIBLE ABOUT MONEY & POSSESSIONS

1) MONEY FOR BASIC NEEDS...

- GOD PROVIDES FOR YOUR NEEDS...
- “MORE MONEY” does not equal “MORE LIFE”

LIFE IS NOT ABOUT WHAT WE OWN- OR HOW MUCH MONEY WE HAVE

- (Luke 12:15-34 NLT) "Then he said, "Beware! Don't be greedy for what you don't have. Real life is not measured by how much we own." {16} And he gave an illustration: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. {17} In fact, his barns were full to overflowing. {18} So he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store everything. {19} And I'll sit back and say to myself, My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!' {20} "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get it all?' {21} "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God." {22} Then turning to his disciples, Jesus said, "So I tell you, don't worry about everyday life-whether you have enough food to eat or clothes to wear." {23} For life consists of far more than food and clothing. {24} Look at the ravens. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! {25} **Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?** Of course not! {26} And if worry can't do little things like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things? {27} "Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. {28} And if

God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you? You have so little faith! {29} And don't worry about food--what to eat and drink. Don't worry whether God will provide it for you. {30} These things dominate the thoughts of most people, but your Father already knows your needs. {31} INSTEAD seek his kingdom first, and all of these things will then be given to you as well. {32} "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. {33} "Sell what you have and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven have no holes in them. Your treasure will be safe--no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. {34} Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be."

- **Real life is not affected by what you own (how much money you have)**
 - You need resources and money to live
 - But MORE money & resources DO NOT ADD MORE LIFE!
- **Kingdom principle regarding Riches... (money & possessions)**
 - If you seek to SEEK THE KINGDOM FIRST ALL THESE OTHER THINGS WILL BE PROVIDED
 - SEEKING TO LIVE ACCORDING THE REIGN OF JESUS
 - He is the One who has said...
 - All Things are mine
 - "Put my riches to work"
 - SEEK HIS KINGDOM with your FINANCES/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 - THEN HE WILL PROVIDE ALL THAT YOU NEED
 - Sounds too easy,
- THE FOCUS IS ON GOD
 - We must remove our FOCUS from "how to make more money"
 - ("how can we make more money")
 - When must place our FOCUS on God's Plan (the kingdom plan) for our Riches
 - All that we need will be given to us – BY GOD!
 - God will take charge of our resources...
 - we shift from worrying about stuff to Seeking His kingdom
 - Living according to the plan of God

DON'T BE A SLAVE TO YOUR STUFF!

- (2 Pet 2:18-20 NLT) "They brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting. With lustful desire as their bait, they lure back into sin those who have just escaped from such wicked living. {19} They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves to sin and corruption. FOR YOU ARE A SLAVE TO WHATEVER CONTROLS YOU.
- DOES YOUR MONEY AND STUFF CONTROL YOUR LIFE?

HOW DO I KNOW IF MONEY CONTROLS ME?

ASK YOURSELF – ARE YOU SPENDING OR INVESTING

1) AM I SPENDING MY MONEY TO GET MORE COMFORTABLE IN THIS LIFE (THE MATERIAL DESIRES OF MY HEART) OR AM I INVESTING GOD'S RESOURCES AS HE LEADS..

ARE YOU SPENDING YOUR MONEY IN YOU?

1) DO YOU SPEND YOUR MONEY ON "THINGS" THAT YOU DON'T USE??

- "If I have more stuff then I will be happy"

2) ARE YOU ALWAYS SAVING MONEY TO "GET AWAY" (Facebook Posting Journeys)

- "If we do fun things then we will be happy"

2) TITHING: FIRST FRUITS PRINCIPLE

IF YOU GIVE GOD YOUR FIRST FRUITS (a tenth) THEN GOD WILL BLESS & MULTIPLY ALL OF IT!

AN ANCIENT PRINCIPLE – OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

- 10% OF POSSESSIONS WERE SET APART FOR THE WORK OF GOD

Abraham

(Gen 14:18-20 NLT) "Then Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought him bread and wine. {19} Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. {20} And blessed be God Most High, who has helped you conquer your enemies." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered."

Jacob

(Gen 28:20-22 NIV) "Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear {21} so that I return safely to my father's house, then the LORD will be my God {22} and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.""

OLD TESTAMENT

THE TITHE (TENTH) WAS TO BE GIVEN TO THE PRIESTS

STOREHOUSE PRINCIPLE

Number 18:20-32 – *The Tithe was brought to the Temple*

- It was received by the priests
- It was used to support the priests so that they could carry out the work
- *The tithe is used for local ministry*

ROBBING GOD...

(Mal 3:8-12 NIV) ""Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. {9} You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. {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 YOU WILL NOT HAVE ROOM ENOUGH FOR IT. {11} I WILL PREVENT PESTS FROM DEVOURING YOUR CROPS, AND THE VINES IN YOUR FIELDS WILL NOT CAST THEIR FRUIT," SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY. {12} "THEN ALL THE NATIONS WILL CALL YOU BLESSED, FOR YOURS WILL BE A DELIGHTFUL LAND," SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY."

I believe in TITHING...

- I learned it the hard way

SHARE: "When I was growing up my dad preached a lot about tithing.

- I just thought it was a way for the preacher to get more money
- Carol and I were living in a trailer in Southwood
 - we were trying to sell our trailer & could not
- We prayed and sought God about why the trailer would not sell
- God showed us that our resources were not under His blessing

- We were paying 5% of our income to the church
- I was convinced that we could not afford to pay more than that
- God showed us that we had placed ourselves OUTSIDE of his plan of blessing
- We began to tithe (10% of our income)
 - We have been able to live our lives without worrying about our income
 - We have had enough to live on
 - We have had enough to bless others..

Sharing...

- Are there others who would like to share about tithing?

I LOVE TO TEACH ABOUT THE BLESSING OF TITHING!

- I used to worry about what people would think – That I was trying to put my hand in their pockets..
- I don't worry about that, I want to

TITHE - MEANS "TENTH"

- IF YOU GIVE 1/10 of your income to the local ministry God will

Some have said that Tithing is a OLD COVENANT teaching...

- The teachings of Jesus and the New Testament are even more clear about this principle..

JESUS TEACHING ON GIVING...

Luke 6:38 (NIV) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

- o Jesus taught that GIVING causes a DIRECT RESPONSE from God...
 - God will use the same generosity that you demonstrate to GIVE BACK to you!

PAUL'S TEACHING ON GIVING

2Co 9:6-11 (NIV) Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. [7] Each of you should **give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

[8] And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. [9] As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

[10] Now he [**God**] who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food **will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.** [11] You will be **enriched in every way** so that **you can be generous on every occasion,** and through us **your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.**

- When you GIVE TO GOD – not out of duty or compulsion
 - Bless you ABUNDANTLY – ALL THINGS, AT ALL TIMES
 - You will have ALL YOU NEED
 - You will ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK
- GOD (the sower) will "increase your STORE OF SEED"
 - So that you can BE A SOWER into others
 - YOUR GENEROUSITY WILL RESULT IN PRAISE TO GOD

NEW TESTAMENT TITHING

(1 Cor 16:2-3 NIV) "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. {3}

Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem."

(Don't read this passage)

Support for Ministers...

1 Cor 9:7-11 (NIV) Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? [8] Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? [9] For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? [10] Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. [11] If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

3) OFFERINGS: GIVING AS THE LORD LEADS

- MONEY AND POSSESSIONS GIVEN TO MEET NEEDS - AS GOD DIRECTS

- OVER AND ABOVE THE TITHE.. AS THE LORD SPEAKS TO YOUR HEART TO GIVE!

WE MUST GIVE AS THE LORD DIRECTS - EVEN WHEN IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE

(Mark 12:41-44 NLT) "Jesus went over to the collection box in the Temple and sat and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. {42} Then a poor widow came and dropped in two pennies. {43} He called his disciples to him and said, "I assure you, this poor widow has given more than all the others have given. {44} For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has."

- Did Jesus complain that the offering would bankrupt the poor woman who gave all
 - No, He pointed out that GOD saw what she did and would reward her

- **(2 Cor 8:1-7 NIV) "And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. {2} Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. {3} For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, {4} they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. {5} And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. {6} So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. {7} But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving."**

- Paul collected "They gave BEYOND THEIR ABILITY to give
- Paul encouraged them to "EXCEL IN THIS GRACE OF GIVING"

4) BENEVOLENCE: SECRETLY GIVING TO OTHERS WHEN THEY HAVE NEEDS

ALMS (BENEVOLENCE PRINCIPLE) - GIVEN TO THE POOR, WIDOW, FATHERLESS

(Prov 19:17 NIV) "He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done."

(Prov 21:13 NIV) "If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered."

(Mat 5:42 NIV) "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."

(Mat 6:3-4 NIV) "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, {4} so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

(Rom 12:13 NIV) "Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

THE REWARD OF OBEDIENCE IN GIVING

- (Isa 58:6-10 NIV) "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? {7} **Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? {8} Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. {9} Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, {10} and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."**

5) TAXES: JESUS: "PAY YOUR TAXES!"

GOD ENFORCES TAXATION!

(Rom 13:5-8 NIV) "Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. {6} **This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. {7} Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. {8}** Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law."

JESUS SUPPORTED PAYING TAXES

(Mat 17:24-27 NIV) "After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "**Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?**" {25} "**Yes, he does,**" he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes--from their own sons or from others?" {26} "From others," Peter answered. "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. {27} "**But so that we may not offend them,** go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. **Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.**"

(Mat 22:17-21 NIV) "Tell us then, what is your opinion? **Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?**" {18} But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? {19} Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, {20} and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" {21} "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Invitation:

Have you allowed THE LORD to be LORD of your riches (money and possessions)?

Do you find yourself worried about having enough? Getting more? Being more comfortable?

Do you want to participate in God's plan?

- o Do you feel God's Call to blessing of Tithing?
- o Do you accept the partnership of God with HIS RESOURCES?

