

WHO OWNS WHAT?

LOVE GIVE GROW



“What do you have that God hasn’t given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?”

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)

Big Idea:

God is the Owner - We are the Managers

1. **My response: It’s My money...**

- *I want control*
- *Keep your nose out of my business*
- *I’ll do as I please*

“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil...” 1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT)

2. **God’s response: Actually...it’s My Money**

- *Be a wise steward*
- *Be generous*
- *Trust me*

“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”

Psalms 24:1 (NLT)

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Questions for “Who Owns What?”

1. Most people have stories where the topic of money came up in a conversation and we became embarrassed or defensive. Why do you think “money-talk” has this effect on people?
2. Read Luke 12:13-21.
 - a. What was the ‘flaw’ in the wealthy land-owner plan?
 - b. How does the story answer the brother’s demand?
 - c. What are the parallels in this story to our own situation living in one of the wealthiest countries in the world?
 - d. How does v. 15 speak to the heart of the problem? How does it speak to the heart of the North American situation?
 - e. Why do you think Jesus used the words: “Be on guard...” when speaking about greed? What other things does the bible say “watch out for” or “be on your guard” about? (cf., Matt 16:6; Matt 18:10; Lk 17:3; 1Thess 5:15; 2Pet 3:17; 2Jn 8)
 - f. What do you think it means to be “rich toward God” (v. 21)

Love Give Grow Questions

1. A tithe is 10% of a person’s income. In Old Testament times people gave a tithe plus alms and various offerings. At The Journey Church, the Tithe would be what we give to the General Fund (to God’s Church), Alms would be for Community Care (to help those

in need), and Offerings would be for one of our several other funds (mission, building, special).

a. Why do you think people confuse Tithes, Alms, & Offerings as being the same thing?

b. What kind of planning would be required for a family to start giving a full tithe and alms and offerings? Do you have a financial plan that includes regular giving? (giving with PAD is one way to help you have consistency)

c. What impact does debt have on our ability to give generously? Do you have a plan to reduce personal debt so you can become more generous?

d. What do you think would happen if all God’s people were obedient in giving a tithe to the local church?

2. In the Gospels, the only thing Jesus talked about more than money was the Kingdom of God.

a. Based on Jesus’ emphasis, what can we do to have a more biblical understanding of money?

b. What can we do to be less defensive (or offended) when discussing money?

3. Paul writes: “God loves a cheerful giver.” What are some marks of a cheerful giver? What one thing can you do this week to become more cheerful in giving?