



Rejecting Greed. Growing in Generosity.

GOD'S INGREDIENTS FOR GROWTH PART#9 NOAH LARGENT 8/11/13

Forgiveness
Humility
Authenticity
Community
Service
Grace
His Word
**God's
Ingredients
For Growth**

Matt. 6:20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Our money may be the very last thing we want to talk to others about...

In our culture, a man's checkbook is no one's business but his own... Any time you find yourself insisting that some part of your spiritual life is nobody else's business, it may be a warning sign that you are trying to hide something. -Nicole Alexander

...But God doesn't seem to mind talking about it!

- ▶ Jesus Talked more about money than Heaven or Hell... combined!
- ▶ Other than the "Kingdom of God", it's what He most often addressed.
- ▶ 11 of the 39 parables are about money.

1. Greed can be costly.

▶ The Foolish Builder. *-Luke 12:13-21 ¹⁹ I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."²⁰ But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you ²¹ This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

▶ The Rich Man & Lazarus. *-Luke 16:19-31*

▶ The Rich Young Ruler. *-Mark 10:17-29 ²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."*

"What Not to Do With Your Money" - Dan Wilvers 5/30/10

1. Money is a tool and test.

- a. It's a **TOOL** to be used for God's purposes in your life.
- b. Money **TEST** our character, values, priorities, and responsibilities.

2. Being wealthy is not a sin. *-1Timothy 6:10 ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. (notice it's "the love of money" not plain "money" that is the issue)!*

- ▶ Wealthy People in the Bible: *Abraham, King Solomon, Job, Joseph of Arimathea, Lydia, The Ethiopian Treasurer, Philemon*
- ▶ *Paul's work was supported by others generosity.*
- ▶ *Jesus and his disciples traveled with a money keeper (Judas).*
- ▶ *Jesus and His friends took advantage of an "upper room" at a wealthy persons house.*
- ▶ *Meaningful work is always celebrated in the Bible.*

3. We were designed to be generous.

- ▶ We were created in God's image and likeness. God is a generous giver! *-Genesis 1:27, -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.*

4. Three Keys to being generous with your money:

1. Like everything else our money belongs to God. We are God's asset managers! *-Luke 16:11*
2. Practice self denial. *-Titus 2:12*
3. Have a budget with generosity built in. *-2 Corinthians 9:7 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.*

5. From generosity to sacrificial.

- ▶ The widows offering. *-Mark 12:41-44 ⁴⁴ she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*
- ▶ Jesus became poor to give us a rich life. *-2Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

What's fascinating is that as our financial needs are supplied, our appetite for money tends to increase rather than diminish. When we're physically hungry, we fill our stomachs, then back away from the table. Not so with money. It seems the more we get, the more we want. - Bill Hybels "Honest to God" pg.154