

# Streams of Living Water 2

## Financial Stewardship & Generosity

- *When you heard that the message was going to be about money in church (financial stewardship), what did you think it would cover / would be the main points?*
- *Would you describe yourself as generous? In what areas? What changes in your personal circumstances would make you more generous? What changes in your heart attitudes do you think would make you more generous?*

### **THIRST** (See John 7:37-38)

- \* Surely money is a MEANS not the ENDS.
- \* The Bible teaches money is a GIFT to STEWARD well, a TOOL to BLESS with, and a SACRIFICE to WORSHIP with.
- *Do you agree with that summary? How do each of them work? How do you get on with stewarding, blessing and sacrificing?*
- *Why do you feel the way you do about money? For you, as you think about it, manage it and spend / save it, is it fear or faith? Is it to get or to give? Do you view it as yours or God's?*
- \* One of the reasons Jesus taught about money more than most is because there is a COMPETITION for the AFFECTIONS of the HEART.
- *What are the things competing for the affections of your heart? Where do God and money rank in that?*
- \* Either GOD or MONEY will have your heart and the best way to fix that is to SUBMIT your financial world to God.
- *"The easiest way to submit your financial world to God is to give some of it away, intentionally and regularly." Discuss! Where does the idea of tithing fit into that?*
- *If you're honest, who has a tighter grip on your heart: God or your money? What evidence could people find on your bank statements to back up your claims?*
- \* When it comes to our finances, we tend to be so focussed on OUTWARD FACTORS, we forget the key part: The HEALTHY & CONDITION of our own HEART.
- \* Rivers of living water come from WITHIN, not WITHOUT.
- \* If you want there to be an OUTPOURING, then FILL yourself up with GOD and let Him OVERFLOW.
- *Which is the stronger factor in your generosity: your outward circumstances or inward attitudes, and why? How would you define generosity? If there were no natural or practical limits on your ability to be generous, what would you do? How might you get rather closer to that?*

### **COME TO HIM & DRINK**

- \* If He is the true SOURCE, one day you'll have to make that 'stake in the ground' DECISION to make Him LORD of your financial life.
- *Have you done that? How does one do that? If you haven't, what is stopping you?*
- \* **Job 22:21** → *SUBMIT to God and be at PEACE with Him; in this way PROSPERITY will come to you.*
- \* You can have PEACE in your financial life, if you SUBMIT it to God.
- \* FLIP: If you don't, if you RESIST and do it your OWN WAY, you'll never find that peace ... and you'll place a significant BLOCKAGE on that river of living water.
- *In your financial life, are you submitted or resistant? Are you at peace or uncomfortable / dissatisfied / in turmoil? Is it your way or God's way?*
- *What and how does resistance (or failing to submit to God) place a blockage on those rivers of living water?*

### **BELIEVE**

- \* Do you really TRUST Him? Who is LORD?
- *"It's tough to let go of something so central and important as your finances." Discuss!*
- \* The power of the promise (Malachi 3:10) ... Sounds like RIVERS of LIVING WATER!
- \* Malachi 3 teaches that if you've been FAITHFUL with money, you've placed yourself in HIS HANDS under His PROTECTION & PROVISION.
- *"It's easier to trust God financially when everything's going well. But, surely it's when it isn't that you need to trust Him the most." Discuss.*
- *What does Malachi 3:8-12 teach about the protection and provision God gives when you trust Him with your money?*

### **RIVERS OF LIVING WATER**

THE PRINCIPLE: 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

→ *Read this passage and describe the picture it paints. Does it sound to you like 'rivers of living water?'*

THE DREAM: ENOUGH to meet YOUR needs and then EVERYONE ELSE'S!

→ *Is this the dream? What is 'enough? How do you balance other people's needs with your own? How does generosity tie in with our Christian witness?*

- \* INDIVIDUALLY as believers & COLLECTIVELY as a church, we should be a RIVER of BLESSING: overflowing with JESUS & outpouring with GENEROSITY.
  - a) Generosity of SPIRIT.
  - b) Generous with our TIME & ENERGY.
  - c) Generous with our MONEY & RESOURCES.

**RESPONSE:** Our part is to steward our money His way. That means: Walking by faith, wise and careful stewardship and being generous.

→ *How might you grow in each of those areas? How could you pray into that for yourself and for our church?*