

[margins]

Part 2: Money

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A Cultural Problem:

“Too many people spend money they haven’t earned to buy things they don’t want to impress people they don’t like.” – Will Rogers

Money Margins from Scripture

1. Know whose money it is.

The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. – Psalm 24:1

2. Know whose kingdom you are a part of.

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. – Matthew 6:24

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. – Genesis 14:18-20

If you are a citizen of Jesus’ Kingdom, your money will have different margins.

God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” – Acts 2:32-33, 36

Pentecost was the coronation of a king. What was the response to the kingship of Jesus?

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. – Acts 2:42-47

3. The plan for money margins: Prioritized percentage giving.

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. – Malachi 3:10

When we prioritize God and his Kingdom, God helps make margins with money.

But prioritizing God doesn't mean I always get a reward from God.

Whose kingdom are you following?

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also."

Your heart follows your wallet.

Helpful Options for Support

The Whatcom Dream and Financial Peace University

Look for information about both classes in the Winter edition of CTK Life (available beginning the last week of December).

Small Group Questions

- 1) Looking at your friends and family, how big of an issue is money margin in your circle of influence?
- 2) What about you personally? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your money margins?
- 3) Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also," basically meaning that your heart follows your spending. Do you see this to be true in your life?
- 4) This weekend we talked about the need to prioritize God's kingdom in order to achieve money margins. The natural outflow is tithing. Talk about your experiences with tithing. Do you tithe? Why or why not?
- 5) If you don't tithe, what do you think it would take to follow the kingship of Jesus in this area of your life?
- 6) Pray for one another. Pray that each of you would have the courage to follow Jesus in this very important aspect of life: money margins.

**OUR
MISSION**

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.