

Sermon Series: Money: Friend or Foe?

5/11/25 “A New Testament Essential,” Matthew 23:1-3, 23, MEV

INTRODUCTION

MAIN IDEA: Draw nearer to God in steps. How? Here are two steps to take.

I. First, establish the discipline of tithing (Matthew 23:23)

A. in the beginning raises a crisis of faith

1. Do I trust God to keep His word? (Matthew 6:33)
2. Am I serving mammon?
3. Do I understand it's all His?

B. becomes accepted part of life with Jesus

1. not enough by itself...*no reason for pride*
2. ongoing relationship with & trust in Jesus

C. enables us to help others...*can lead to generous giving*

1. support pastors

1Cor 8:14, MEV: In the same way, the Lord has ordained that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel

2. support the poor... 2% goes to benevolence

Matt. 19:21, Luke 12:33, Luke 14:12-14, Luke 18:22

3. help others

● Love offerings ● Faith Promises to missions ● 2% to missions

2Corinthians 8:2-3, NLT: 2 They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. **3** For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. [Convoy of Hope]

ILLUSTRATION: good stewardship; budget forms

II. Second, act in agreement with the Holy Spirit

Weightier: of great seriousness & importance

A. doing the disciplines is good, but not enough

B. must live out relationship with Jesus—Holy Spirit in us

1. move past ourselves, our world, comfort, troubles
2. reach out with Jesus' love in practical ways

NOTE: Think agape love. Think of Jesus' new commandment:

Love one another as He has loved us. (John 13:34, Romans 5:8)

▼ **Justice:** what is right & just according to Jesus; to maintain what is right or to set things right; refers to brotherliness in spirit and action —*Hayford Bible Handbook*

✚ Go out of our way to intervene when we see injustice; walk with someone through difficult times.

EX: Dale on bus; John R. on floor;

▼ **Mercy:** compassionate, sympathetic, kind; moves from feeling to action; [a loyal covenant love, extended to others because it has been experienced in one's own relationship with God —*SFLB*]

✚ Help someone in need...car ride, help with lawn, trash; listen

EX:

Matthew 9:12-13, MEV: 12 But when Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

▼ **Faith:** moral conviction; good faith, honesty, integrity, trustworthiness

✚ Be a good neighbor, someone trustworthy...pick up their spilled recycling; let them know about things that might affect them...coming storm, brush pick-up day. Mow their lawn when their mower dies.

EX:

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: