

KINGDOMICS PART ONE GIVE SAVE LIVE

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(Hook) Bookman's put your money away... your purchase is free!!!
 Made my day!
 Chandler One of his first kid's meals at Sonic – "WOW, look what I got!" What is it?
 "I DON'T KNOW! Wow!"

Q: Have you ever won anything like that...?

The text I want to use this morning is about three guys who receive a surprise gift...

Matt 25: 14-15

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

Jesus uses this story to teach us something about the way our finances are connected to our relationship with God.

3 guys give a certain amount of money. Two of them invest and the master is pleased... the 3rd guy buries it and the master takes it away from him and gives it to the guy who already has the most money... So What going on???

Before we unpack this story... I want to use an illustration that I'm going to apply throughout this message.

Jars

When it comes to your expenditures... What you do w/ your money. Think of it in three main categories.

Live – everything you spend on daily living. House, car, power tools, clothes, utilities, entertainment, power tools, groceries, and Power tools.

Save – Retirement, investments, child's education, emergencies... etc.

Give – Tithe, helping people in need... giving to a cause, or what if you have friends or family in a financial crunch. Or God nudges your heart with some opportunity to make a difference that requires so financing on your part.

↳ Live, Save, Give

In our culture this would be the normal priority of things.

Sounds pretty good – You cover all your expenses... What it takes to live. Then you take a portion of what's left to save for retirement or rainy days, and then you can use the balance to give to things important to you. Maybe God puts something on your heart to be a difference maker and you money and energy toward that.

↳ It's seems so simple **live, save, give...**

problem

But there's a problem... It doesn't work!

We live in a world where we are bombarded with messages that say: "To live... you..."

- ✓ Want a little more... you need a little more
- ✓ You've gott'a make a little more... acquire a little more
- ✓ But a little more always turns into a lot more.... And we're always a little short on for what we try to spend on the live jar...

Chan	Chandler is having to make a decision between a toy and a video... "Chandler you don't have enough money for both. You have to choose between them. In a couple of weeks you will have enough to come back and buy the other. I could tell he was upset. He had this deep depressing realization that he honestly believed was unique to only him. "Dad, I have this problem... see there are more things that I really want that I have money for." I laughed... "I serious, this is a problem."
Surf boards	guy w/ over 40 surfboards, "everyone knows you don't need more than 20 or 30
Here's the trap...	We get sucked into living w/ a negative margin between our income and what we spend... We live in society where you can easily spend more than you make...
(Commercial)	Guy on front lawn. I have million dollar house, a couple of European sports cars... I'm the envy of all my neighbors ... And you know how I do it? I'm in debt up to my eyeballs
Myth	Live, save, give is a myth ... it never seems to work. It turns into Live, charge it, give-up. Give-up on real savings Give-up on opportunities to build God's kingdom, and... do something sig The "Live" wants to consume everything... and it steals contentment and joy for what we already have...
	⇒ If there is anything I'd want you to get out of this morning it would be... for all us to flip our cultures view of financial priorities up-side down. To change our thinking on finances from live, save, give... To Give, Save, Live.

God is a Giver

Matt 25: 14-15

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

background

This doesn't seem like a lot of money... *especially the guy who gets one talent.* *This is no Tom Clancy novel* But, to Jesus listeners there were some very striking statements in all of this.

In Jesus' day there wasn't much of a middle class. We think about American Dream, there was no Jerusalem Dream of a white picket fence and a two donkey garage.

A laborer could expect to earn about one drachma for a day's wage. And it was like there was work everyday... Work came mostly in the harvest and planting seasons. A worker might get 200 days of work in a single year.

It took 100 drachmas to equal one mina. And, it took more than 60 mina to equal a single talent. Do you feel the magnitude... One talent is worth at least 6,000 drachma... That's 30 years of salary. Given the life-spans here

~ **In this story Jesus is talking about staggering sums of money.**

Don't feel bad for the guy who received one talent... he was handed more money than in his wildest dreams...

~ Jesus is saying, this is the way God is. He loves to give. At the very least we all receive a life-times' worth of talent and resources....

1. God is a giver in his heart... He can't help it

John 3:16

"God so loved the world that he... gave... His one and only son..."

~ See as followers of Christ... our priorities start with **Give**

Jesus makes some remarkable comments about setting priorities... how God wants us to live.

Matt 6:25-26

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

V:31-32a

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things,

↳ **... and you don't need any of that stuff? Don't ever buy anything you want... To be spiritual is to be really miserable and sad...? NO**

V:32b

"... and your heavenly Father knows that you need them."

~ It's not saying that we shouldn't spend money on things we like or want... Nothing at all wrong with that.

The issue is one of priorities... Here's the biblical principle...

Matt 6:33

But seek first his kingdom... and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Live with God's heart and mind set... God is first and foremost a Giver at heart. Give comes first...

- Personal Here's the issue for Angie and me... Because I'm like you the natural thing for me to do is just spend... spend on me, charge it to get it now... but the opposite is taught through-scripture...
- Q: Do I believe Jesus really understands about life and spiritual things... will I trust in his understanding to live in a different way.
- Angie and I have done this... And it's not easy... It's so contrary to the world.
But... As we've planned how to spend our talent... we have started with give... What will we give away. To this church, ministry, to help others... Then what we need to save for the future... and then comes money for surfboards & power tools.
- While the urge is always there to spend, spend, spend... we have never regretted flowing the principle of Give, Save, Live.
It's caused us to enjoy life more... live w/ a deeper sense of impact in this world... and closer to God... Because it takes trust.
- T>> Now, one more important thing Jesus is driving us to in this story. It has to do with the response of these men.

God longs to include us in the grandest purposes of His Kingdom

- Matt 25:16a "The man who received the five bags of gold went out at once..."
- Well of course he did! He was handed a fortune and asked to go spend it on behalf of the master...
- Matt 25:18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.
- One man dives in!** He doesn't waste anytime investing and using the money... trying to do something with it.
- The other guy freezes!** The only work he does is dig a hole and bury it.
- Q: You know what's strange here. WE would expect that Jesus would have made one of these guys the wild One.
The first man invested wisely, The 2nd man buried it in fear, and the 3rd man caught the Fun Bus to Vegas, got some tattoos, a nose ring and a lot of those

drinks w/ the little umbrella on top. He hitting all the whooka parties until he blown through all the money.

I think the reason leaves that guy out of the story is because...

- ✓ This is not a story about good or bad behavior...
- ✓ This is a story of how we see things between us and God... It's a relational thing.

This is about how each man views his relationship w/ the master.

Friends don't miss this...

The bury it guy... sees the master as a powerful guy who's dumped this strange obligation on him...

~ So he's motivated for self-interest... "How do I avoid losing the money and having master mad at me."

The invest it guy... sees the master as a father who joyfully includes a son or daughter in the family business.

~ So he's motivated for a higher calling. "How do I do leverage this for something truly great! The master must love and trust me... to give me this opportunity. How can I use this talent (life) to please my father?"

~ To him the real gift is not the money... It's the gift of partnering w/ the Master.

2. God longs to include us in the grandest purposes of His Kingdom.

The more we see God as a joyful father longing to include us in His world... the easier it becomes to set our financial priorities around Give, Save, Live.

(Story)

First time I got to drive a loader... out checking dikes to make sure they were holding and the truck got stuck... and so we walked back to the construction plant and got a Caterpillar front end loader.

I rode w/ my dad back to the truck... we pulled it out like pulling a toothpick out of a marshmallow... then my dad turned to me and said... I want you drive the loader back.

Wah... would I like to drive the loader back...? Would I like to take the controls of 800 hp twin turbo diesel, earth moving, monster truck smashing, Caterpillar front end loader...? (flex, halleluiah!!!) It was a dream... it was the chance of life time.

As a young kid I watched my dad run heavy equipment... and some how the realization of what was being turned over to me was...

↳ It was a relational thing... because I was his son... he was including me in his world and work...

Closing

Live, Save, Give is all about trying to find fulfillment through self-gratification... that's why live must be first.

- True fulfillment does not come through self-gratification.

Oddly

in my own life... when I'm living in a Give, Save, Live mind set. I tend to enjoy my stuff more, then when I'm living w/ a Live, Save, Give mind set. – because contentment only last for a moment while the stuff is new, and then I'm left wishing for more,

But when I living with Give, Save, Live – I feel better God's joy in how he uses me for a greater good, I feel more secure because I'm preparing for the future, and I feel content w/ a little, or a lot.

What We Wish

Can I tell you what we at Casas Wish For You...

That you would live w/ a mind set of Give, Save, Live.

- ✓ So that you could live with financial peace.
- ✓ So that you could live with contentment
- ✓ So that you could live with the joy of being a part of the most noble purposes of being apart of God's work here on this planet.