

How to Handle Money God's Way

Main Passage: Proverbs 21

Theological Theme

God calls us to faithfulness with our finances.

Introduction

God is sovereign and in charge, causing all things to work together for our good, but we make life harder when we don't trust Him with our finances. Money itself isn't bad, but the love of money is (1 Timothy 6:9-10). When we love our money more than we love Christ and other people, we have a problem.

Proverbs 21 reminds us to invite God in when we are financially planning and walk in obedience as He directs us. Being wise in this space requires planning and preparation and actively tuning into the Lord's guidance. This is the key to financial flourishing: trusting the Lord and following His direction and will with faithful obedience.

- ❓ How often do you connect your finances with God's will in your life?
- ❓ Why does God care about how we manage our wealth?

1. The Plans of the Diligent (Proverbs 21:1-10)

Proverbs 21 tells us about the Lord and His character. He gets to decide what is good, and God is, ultimately, sovereign and on His throne, regardless of earthly leaders (see also Daniel 2:21). God is sovereign. God knows everything. Even when our plans or ideas seem right to us, we should invite the Lord into our decision-making process (and then be obedient with what we learn). At the time Solomon wrote this, the temple sacrificial system was alive and well, but God has always valued doing what is right and just over simple legalism.

- ❓ How do these verses describe the Lord? What about the wicked?
- ❓ What wisdom can we gain about finances from this passage?
- ❓ Why is it important to involve God in our planning?

2. The Wise Store Up (Proverbs 21:11-20)

Solomon taught against ignoring the needs of the poor among us (v. 13). This goes back to loving our neighbors. When we love our neighbors, we help take care of them. Scripture continuously teaches us to be generous, and this is one avenue in which we can do that. When there is a tangible need that is in our capacity to meet, we should do so. This could be financial but doesn't have to be. We saw Jesus do this throughout His ministry by healing the masses (Matthew 4:23). We can emulate what Christ modeled here by meeting the needs of our neighbors when God calls us to.

- ❓ What wisdom can we glean from this passage for managing our finances?
- ❓ What do you think it means for us to “store up” (v. 20, NIV) today?
- ❓ Why does our stewardship matter to God?

3. The Slacker's Craving (Proverbs 21:21-31)

When we pursue right living, as defined by the Lord, and faithfully love God and our neighbor, we find life and many good things that God, in His love, has in mind for us. Pursuing righteousness doesn't mean we miss out on the “enjoyable” things life has to offer, it shows that we understand that God's plan for our life is better than what our culture is currently calling “good.” And that absolutely applies to our finances!

- ❓ What wise principles do we learn here that we can apply to our financial decisions?
- ❓ How do we pursue righteousness with our financial choices?
- ❓ Why do we need God's wisdom in every area of life—including our finances?

Conclusion

God invites us to faithfulness with our finances. God is sovereign and working in all things for our ultimate good (Romans 8:28), and we can trust Him to direct us well in our decisions. This is what it takes to truly flourish in our finances, inviting Him in as we make decisions, and then faithfully obeying when He gives us direction. This also might involve us giving up our personal idea of what “flourishing” in our finances really means and instead accepting God's definition. The details of this are going to look different for all of us, but in all instances, it requires faithful obedience on our part.

- ❓ What would it look like to invite God into your financial planning? Is this something you do already?
- ❓ What needs do you know of that exist in our church or community that we might help meet? What are some ways we could better take care of our neighbors using our financial blessings?
- ❓ What can we learn about God and His character from today's study?