

Nehemiah: God's Formula for Financial Freedom

Opening Question: What is one of your earliest memories of handling money, and what lesson did it teach you about value, responsibility, or generosity?

Key Takeaways:

1. Financial bondage can affect both the poor and the rich.
2. True financial freedom comes from putting God first, acting with integrity, and practicing generosity.
3. Our giving should be led by God, not by compulsion or reluctance.
4. God is able to provide sufficiently for what He calls us to do.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think our society's view of money differs from God's perspective?
2. **Read Nehemiah 2:20.** This passage emphasizes reliance on God's provision and guidance. How can we, as individuals and as a church, ensure that we are trusting in God's plan for our financial and personal well-being rather than relying solely on material wealth?
3. Nehemiah demonstrated three key values of financial freedom: putting God first, doing the right thing, and being generous. Which of these do you find most challenging and why?
4. **Read Matthew 6:33 and 2 Corinthians 4:18.** How can we practically apply these verses to our financial decisions?
5. The sermon mentioned six principles of spiritual giving: God knows what the need is. | God knows how much he wants to make available through me. | God is pleased to let me know what he wants me to give. | God will enable me to be sufficient to do anything he leads me to do. | I am not limited in what I can give. | This kind of giving requires the presence and the power of God.
 - Which principle challenges or encourages you the most?
6. **Read Nehemiah 5:17-18 and Luke 6:38.** These passages highlight the importance of generosity. What steps can we take in our lives to foster a culture of giving and support, ensuring that our generosity aligns with the teachings of these passages?
7. **Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.** The Apostle Paul states that "God loves a cheerful giver." In what ways can we cultivate a heart of cheerful giving, and how does this attitude impact our personal and communal relationship with God?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, examine your spending habits. Are there areas where you might be in financial bondage? Make a plan to address one area.
2. Practice intentional generosity. Look for an opportunity to give (time, money, or resources) in a way that stretches your faith.
3. Set aside time to pray about your finances. Ask God to reveal His priorities for your money and possessions.
4. If you're not already tithing, consider starting. If you are, reflect on whether God is calling you to increase your giving.
5. Share with a trusted friend or accountability partner about any financial struggles or victories you're experiencing.

Closing Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the wisdom and guidance found in Your Word. Thank You for the lessons we have learned today about financial freedom and the importance of putting You first in all areas of our lives. Help us to trust in Your provision and to walk with integrity and generosity, just as Nehemiah did. May we always seek Your kingdom first and be cheerful givers, reflecting Your love and grace to those around us. Empower us to support one another in our journeys and to faithfully manage the resources You have entrusted to us. We pray for Your continued presence and blessing as we strive to honor You in all that we do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.