



## **Maximum Impact**

*Malachi 3:7-10, Matthew 6:24, 31-33, Mark 12:43-44; Deuteronomy 14:23; Luke 11:42*

**The Big Idea:** Getting the freedom financially to fully obey God.

**The Bottom Line:** Reorder your financial world: give, save, live.

### **Review:**

We are talking about getting our finances Back in the Black, and we've linked this to the laws of balance:

- Reference Point – Got to know
- Constant Correction
- Clear Objective – Honor God

We've been talking about constant corrections, and we began with debt, then generosity, and then discontentment.

### **Introduction:**

Today, I want to finish by suggesting a simple way to organize, prioritize, and possibly reorder your financial world.

You can only do basically five things with money: Spend it. Repay debt. Pay taxes. Save it. Give it.

And that's generally the order we manage it.

Two things govern what percentage goes toward those five categories: priorities and self-control.

### **Tension:**

This amounts to: me (now) first, me (later) second, America third, and God and others last.

This ME-FIRST approach shuts God out. Worse, it is offensive because we end up offering God and others our leftovers.

But that doesn't stop you from asking God to bless, provide work, sell houses, tuition, etc.

You want God involved as a helper. But you don't want to honor Him and put Him first in your finances.

Your financial priorities represent an open or shut door.

**Truth:**

In the Old and New Testaments, priorities reflect the condition of the heart and impact God's willingness to become active in a person's life.

Read: Malachi 3:7-10

Read: The purpose of the tithe in Deuteronomy 14:23 (Living Bible).

Tithing affirmed in the New Testament in Luke 11:42.

Read: Matthew 6:24-33.

Prioritizing God's interests financially is an invitation to his activity in your life because he waits to be welcomed.

Flip the list to ... Give, Save, Pay Taxes, Repay Debt, Spend.

Or simply ... Give, Save, Live.

Read: Mark 12:43-44

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**Application:**

Reorder your financial life to ... Give, Save, Live.

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*Challenge: Take the Six-Month Tithe Challenge.*

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## **Conclusion:**

The three laws of financial balance are ...

- Keep an eye on where it's going. Spy on your money.
- Determine to honor God—with everything.
- Make the constant adjustments: debt, saving, giving, awareness.

Reprioritize around Give/Save/Live.

Your life will be richer. Your relationships will be richer. Your heart will get bigger. But, most importantly, God will be honored.

Imagine what would happen if all of us did this. If we pooled just our credit card interest, according to American averages, it would amount to about \$201,000 this year for Jesus! Our Christmas Offering would explode this year!

For those of you who desire to be followers of Christ, this isn't an add-on. This is an essential. You can't be a whole-hearted follower of Jesus without surrendering your stuff and the way you manage it.

## **Next Steps**

- Memorize Matthew 6:33.
- Pastor, Sign Me Up for the 6-Month Tithe Challenge.
- Reorder Your Money to ... Give, Save, Live.

## **Discussion questions for group this week:**

**1. What does this teach me about God?**

**2. What does this teach me about me?**

**3.How do I apply this to my life?**

**4.If I could ask a question about this it would be....**