



Series: 'Sermon on the Amount'  
25<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
'Underneath the Bottom Line'



## Overview

In this sermon Greg compares secular teaching on money management to biblical teaching, raising questions such as: *At what point in our lives do we say we have enough? What inspires us to give money away? In our workplaces, are we driven by compensation or calling?*



### Getting to Know You

- Often with a married couple, one will handle the finances and the other will only be involved at key decision points. Put another way, some of us gravitate to the detail, and some only to the big picture. Which are you? What are the particular challenges for each of these personality type when it comes to money?
- Have you ever been to a money management seminar? Or read a book on money management? Or engaged the help of a budget advisor?
  - In what ways was this helpful?
  - Were there ways that it conflicted with biblical values?
  - Greg says typically these seminars/books take you through five areas (as per the slide below, LH column). Was this pretty much true in your case?

# Underneath the Bottom Line

## "Bottom Line" Logic

Follow the money

Spend "a little less"  
than you earn

Save some of the  
margin for security

Invest the rest for  
financial growth

Giving is out!

## Kingdom Logic

Follow the call *Matt 6:33*

Learn to be content  
in all circumstances *Phil 4:11-13*

Save wisely,  
but trust in God *Prov 6:6-8*  
*Matt 6:24*

Invest for  
kingdom growth *Matt 6:19-21*

Giving is in! *2 Cor 9:7*

SERMON ON THE AMOUNT





## Digging Deeper

- Go around the circle with each person reading out one of the bible passages from the far right column in the slide above. Which of these passages is most important to you, and why?
- Greg also referred to Ephesians 6 which we associate with spiritual warfare. Considering the quote, had you ever considered doing spiritual warfare against the power of money/Mammon in your life? What would stop you doing this?

*'Money is one of the principalities and powers that Paul talks about in Ephesians 6. It is animated and energised; money is something with a life of its own'* [From Greg's sermon]

- Interviewing Kate Stachurski on Sunday, Steve says he found himself dying to ask an off the record question: *"If your pay was cut in half, would you still want to keep your job?"* If the question were asked of you, what would your answer be?
  - Kate has figured out 4 things that she believes God has called her to make a difference at in her workplace, and she had bible verses relating to these. Is this an area you've thought a lot about in your own working life?
- Greg challenged us to go to St Lukes, or to a car yard or find a brochure full of things we like and marvel at those things, but then say: 'I don't need that.' In which particular shops (or brochures) would you find this most difficult? Could you do it? Will you?
- *'The motivation that virtually all financial planning books give for saving is fear. Fear about the future.'* How much does fear of the future motivate you in your thinking about money?



## Taking it home

- Greg quoted US figures that say US folk give away an average of 2.5% to charities in the course of a year. Christians in the US give 3.8%. Does this surprise you? Are there reasons why it might be similar or different in NZ? How does it challenge you personally?
- Considering Kate Stachurski's story, is there something you can change in your approach to your work that would make it more about calling than compensation?



## Prayer

- Writing about money, Christian writer Richard Foster says: *'Step on it, laugh at it, mock its importance. List it way down on the scale of values. Certainly far below friendship and cheerful surroundings... Engage in the most profane and sacrilegious act of all with your money: Give it away'.* Pray that Christ will partner with us as we do this.