

Sunday, February 01, 2015

**Flat Broke #2**  
**Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

Pastor Margaret gave a word from the Lord:

The Lord told her that there are people here this morning that feel like a failure, you look at your past and you think you have failed. And so you are bogged down in the past because of past failures. The Lord told Margaret to tell you that His love never fails, no matter what you have done, or where you are at spiritually, His love has never failed for you. He does not see you as a failure, He just sees you as unfinished. Don't set where you are at continue on because what is ahead of you is not failure, but it is success if you turn loose of your past.

Last week Pastor started a series on what God's plan and will is for us concerning our finances. It is God's plan that our needs be met, our bills be paid, and we have monies left over. Sometimes our financial wrecks are our own doing via wrong choices and decisions, but the will of God is that we prosper financially.

**Psalm 35:27 (KJV)**

***<sup>27</sup> Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.***

**2 Corinthians 8:9 (KJV)**

***<sup>9</sup> For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.***

Jesus redeemed us from poverty just as much as he redeemed us from sin. He also came to redeem us from the curse of poverty. Poverty us under the curse of the law. Sin and sickness are under the curse of the law. Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law as told in Galatians 3:13.

We are living in a different kingdom. That may be hard for us to comprehend, but the bible tells us when we are born again we are now in the kingdom of Jesus. We are to live by different principles than the kingdom we came out of. If we are going to prosper in every area and have success in the kingdom we are now in we must live by the principles and rules of that kingdom.

Half of Jesus's parables deal with money in form or another in respect to giving and receiving. Money is referred to more around the same as praise and worship and they are mentioned between 350 and 400 times. It is mentioned more times than faith and prayer in the New Testament.

Apparently Jesus knew we would have a challenge from time to time on how to handle our money and how to conduct business according to kingdom rules.

One of the kingdom rules in reference to money is tithing. Tithing is a ten percent of our increase. It is easy to figure if we earn an hourly wage but if you own your own business it is 10 percent of your profit.

Malachi, Zachariah, and Haggai were almost contemporaries in prophesying and bringing the word of the Lord to the children of Israel. The children had been back from captivity for 100 years. They had gotten the temple built and the prosperity they thought would come hadn't yet and seemed withheld from them. Malachi addressed this with them. Anytime they forgot God they quit tithing. This is the instance in the book of Malachi.

**Malachi 3:6-8 (KJV)**

***<sup>6</sup> For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.***

<sup>7</sup> *Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?*

<sup>8</sup> *Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.*

**Malachi 3:10 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

In relationship to the tithe, this scripture tells us that there is abundance or more than enough in Heaven and the windows of Heaven will be opened and the blessings that will come will be more than we can receive in the present containers we are receiving with.

The windows of Heaven is also used in Genesis. When the windows were opened here it spoke of the waters that came in the flood. It is also used in Genesis 8 and Psalms 78:23

**Genesis 7:11 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.*

God does not want to bless us with a little trickle, or just a stream or river, but in flood stage which is overflow. This is God's will and purpose for us. God's plan is that we be blessed in the measure of the flood stage, windows of heaven open on our behalf.

Tithing is part of our covenant relationship. There are examples of this in the bible. Abraham is one of them and it is found in Genesis chapter 14.

Abraham wanted it said that God made him rich and no one else. He was exceedingly rich in silver, gold and cattle the bible says.

The church has somehow unintentionally left the impression on people that it is wrong to prosper and do good in business, and so young people that are gifted leave the church and go into the world to establish their business and make money because the world says it's alright. Then they are not honoring God and that is error. But God says He is going to honor through the tithe.

There is division in Jacob's home to the point that his brother Esau tells him if he sees him again he would kill him. Jacob ran for his life leaving home. The bible says he left only with the staff in his hands and the clothes on his back. When he came back home 20 years later he came back and had two armies. In that course of time he worked for his in-laws and Laban cheated him 10 times.

The first deal he made with Laban he worked for him for seven years and he would get to choose whichever daughter of Laban that he wanted. He chose Rachel and his love was so strong for her that the seven years seemed as no time at all. He was given Rachel, but when he awakens after being given her he finds it wasn't her. He was told their custom was different so he was to get another daughter instead. A deal was made that if he would stay seven more years he would be given Rachel and he agreed and during that time he was given Rachel. Jacob served Laban well. After the 14 years he wanted more than the wives. Jacob told Laban they could sort the animals and keep the breeds separate and put 3 days journey between them. Laban put his sons to tend the off breeds and Jacob the pure breeds.

Jacob said he would keep the off breeds away from the pure breeds and that was his wages. Laban agreed. When Jacob left home he made a vow to God that if He would keep Jacob safe and bring him back he would tithe and honor Him. Jacob had an encounter with the Lord and was told he would be blessed like he couldn't believe and bring him back to his people and Jacob said surely this must be the gate of heaven open. He saw angels ascending and descending.

Jacob was blessed during those years and it is shown that in the tithe window of heaven are opened and part of that are good ideas. Those acted upon will bring favor on earth.

**Genesis 30:37-43 (KJV)**

***<sup>37</sup> And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and piled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods.***

***<sup>38</sup> And he set the rods which he had piled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink.***

***<sup>39</sup> And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled, and spotted.***

***<sup>40</sup> And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the ringstraked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle.***

***<sup>41</sup> And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods.***

***<sup>42</sup> But when the cattle were feeble, he put them not in: so the feebler were Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's.***

***<sup>43</sup> And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.***

Jacob received what to do in a vision or dream. In the six years' time Laban was blessed because of Jacob's diligence to work. In six years' time the wealth of Laban's became Jacobs.

The wealth of the wicked is stored up for the righteous. The book of Ecclesiastes says the sinners will labor and travail to heap up for those that are walking right with the Lord.

In Chapter 31 the word glory is used for the first time in the bible and it is referring specifically to money or wealth. Because of Jacob's commitment to tithe God gave him the idea in a dream or vision and he acted upon it and it began to work for him.

Proverbs 3:8-10 says that as I honor the Lord with my giving He will bring increase my way. I believe God's word and allow it to work in me. I walk in the blessings of the Lord and there is not lack in my life. Lack you must go in the name of Jesus, because God's word is working in my life. I have more than enough, I am a cheerful giver and more than happy to sow into the kingdom of God. Therefore, I am being supplied by a supernatural flow from Heaven and every one of my needs are met according to God's riches.

I am not limited to my job or my financial status. I am experiencing increase, I am debt free, and my church is debt free. I am a faithful tither therefore, raises, bonuses, and promotions, and money due me are coming my way in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Father right now we stand amazed at the incredible plan you have for us in our lives, even in our finances. There is a reason for it.

Father, we pray for those who are experiencing lack. I pray that You provide supernaturally for them in an incredible way. And may they know they are not limited to their jobs, but they are only limited to the degree of faith they have in how big God is. Father I pray that you multiply the seed sown in Jesus name.

Father I ask you to forgive me for not tithing. Now Father, I repent of it and receive my forgiveness, and I am purposing to be a tither, in Jesus name. Amen.