



**Message One: IT'S NO BIG DEAL**  
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Satan exists, and he is a liar. Jesus said, *There is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies* (John 8:44, NIV). Paul said he is a schemer (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11). A deceiver is one who persuades people to believe what is not true.

One of the arenas in which Satan works to deceive is in regard to our money and material possessions. Material possessions have tremendous potential to lure our devotion away from God. Jesus said this, *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.* (Matthew 6:24, NKJV)

**SOME GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT MONEY**

What we do with our money says something about our view of **God**.

1 Peter 3:15, *Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life.* (CEV)

What we do with our money says something about our **trust**.

Matthew 6:33, *Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* (NIV)

What we do with our money says something about our **values**.

Luke 12: 34, *Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* (NIV)

What we do with our money says something about **ownership**.

Psalm 50:10-12, *Every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills...and the creatures of the field are mine...the world is mine and all that is in it*

Stewardship is about **managing** what God has given us.

It's not about what we can do for God. It's about what God wants to do in us.

## THE BIG DEAL

Malachi 3:7-10, *'Return to me, and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty. 'But you ask, 'How are we to return?' "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.' 'But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this...and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.'* (NIV)

The Hebrew word for *rob* means to **plunder, pillage, ravage**.

It is more than just being stingy or hoarding. It is an attack on God.

To fail to live generously says to God, "**This is my stuff.**"

When we are not generous with our stuff, we are contributing to **cosmic evil**.

## THE SIN OF GREED

Luke 12:15, Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. (NIV)

Greed is one sin that has the power to **blind us** to its presence in our lives.

Almost no one thinks they have a problem with greed.

The journey to breaking the power of greed begins with **pursuing generosity**.

Generosity begins with tithing (10%) to God's work.

You give more when love and justice demand it. (Luke 11:42)

Everyone tithes. The question is "Into what **treasury** is your tithe being placed?"

Today don't sit down with a **calculator**. Sit at the foot of the **cross**.