

# Cutting a Better Path (Making Better Money Decisions)

## **April 28, 2019**

**Sermon Theme for the Year:** How do you cut a new path for your life?

- 1. Build a Better You
- 2. Build a Better Vision
- 3. Build a Better Foundation
- 4. Make Better Money Decisions (Current Series)
- 5. Make Better Sexual Decisions
- **6.** Make Better Relationship Decisions
- 7. Make Better Vocational Decisions

**Big Question:** What kind of decisions are you making about your life and your money?

• The Bible says your decisions are directly tied to what you believe (Matthew 9:29, NKJV) "Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

#### **Summary:**

• What you choose to believe will directly impact your potential in life and those you influence.

#### **Two Questions:**

- 1. What do your results say you believe about money?
- 2. Why do you and so many people struggle with money?

# I. Our Nation Is Struggling With Money Decisions

### 1. We don't have enough cash in most American homes (This is especially true in minority families)

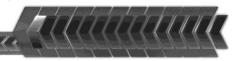
• According to a brand new survey from Bankrate.com, just 37% of Americans have enough savings to pay for a \$500 or \$1,000 emergency. The other 63% would have to resort to measures like cutting back spending in other areas (23%), charging to a credit card (15%) or borrowing funds from friends and family (15%) in order to meet the cost of the unexpected event.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2. We are spending more money than we make

• The U.S. federal budget deficit for fiscal year 2020 is \$1.103 trillion. FY 2020 covers October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020. The deficit occurs because the U.S. government spending of \$4.746 trillion is higher than its revenue of \$3.643 trillion.<sup>2</sup>

 $^{1}\text{Source:}$  https://www.forbes.com - 63% Americans Don't Have Enough Savings to Cover a \$500 Emergency

<sup>2</sup>Source: https://www.thebalance.com - Current U.S. Federal Budget Deficit





### II. Why Some People Struggle With Money

- 1. They don't **invest** enough effort to make money (Ecclesiastes 9:10)<sup>3</sup>
- 2. They don't have enough **information** about money (Proverbs 27:23-24)<sup>4</sup>
- 3. They don't have a strategy for their money before it comes (Proverbs 16:9)<sup>5</sup>

## III. Why <u>Churches</u> Struggle With Money

- 1. They have **low investment percentage members** and supporters
- 2. They are **not excited and proactive** when it comes to raising money
- 3. They are not consistent and faithful enough to have a stable income

# IV. What Can You Do About Your Money Issues

- **1.** Become **passionate** about the gift of money (repeat)
- 2. Become **informed** about the details of your money (repeat)
- **3.** Become **comfortable** with the truth about your money
- **4.** Become **generous** with the money you have been blessed with (Luke 6:38)

# Next Time: Making Better Money Decisions 2 (Why Don't I Have More Money?) Possible Questions to Investigate the Reasons For Not Having More Money

- **1.** How do you **view** money?
- **2.** How do you view **making** money?
- **3.** How do you view **people** with money?
- **4.** How do you view **spending** your money?

#### Down the Road

- Will your kids ever have money? (Do your kids know the financial basics?)
- Will your family ever have money? (Will your kids have a financial heritage?)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NKJV): 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Proverbs 27:23–24: Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, And attend to your herds; 24 For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown endure to all generations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.