

A Tip Is A Tithe

HOW DID 10% BECOME 2.5%?

A MINOR PROPHET'S MAJOR MESSAGE

Haggai 1-2 / Daniel 1:1-2/ Ezra/ Nehemiah/ Zechariah

The Situation & Key Players:

- A time of great economic **hardship** and **struggle**.
- A small group of good and **highly committed** people.

Haggai's Message:

If You Always Have A Hole In Your Pocket – Here's Why!

- Why There Is Never **Enough** (1:1-11)
- Quick **Obedience** (1:12)
- God's **Immediate** Response (1:13–2:9)
- How Disobedience In **One Area** Impacts **Every Area** (2:10-14)
- A **Promise** And A **Blessing** (2:15-23)

THREE STEPS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

❶ Give to God **off the top** no matter what.

Proverbs 3:9-10/ 2 Corinthians 8:12-13 & 9:6-11/ Philippians 4:15-19

❷ Decide to live **within your means** no matter what.

Proverbs 12:9 & 21:17

❸ Decide to live **a step below your means** no matter what.

Proverbs 21:20

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- A time of great economic _____ and _____.
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- Why There Is Never _____ (1:1-11)
- Quick _____ (1:12)
- God's _____ Response (1:13–2:9)
- How Disobedience In _____ Impacts _____ (2:10-14)
- A _____ And A _____ (2:15-23)

THREE STEPS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

- 1 **Give to God _____ no matter what.**
Proverbs 3:9-10/ 2 Corinthians 8:12-13 & 9:6-11/ Philippians 4:15-19
- 2 **Decide to live _____ no matter what.**
Proverbs 12:9 & 21:17
- 3 **Decide to live _____ no matter what.**
Proverbs 21:20

Food for Thought

For the week of August 5, 2007
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Jesus warns us about over-valuing our possessions in Luke 12:15. After reading this verse, describe the "abundance" of your life using Luke's statements as your guide. Why is this important to consider when talking about finances?
2. Our priorities usually drive the extent of "financial freedom," contentment and generosity we have. It's also true that the person who prides himself in what he has suffers from the same heart condition as the person who worries about what he does not have. Both are making the same mistake by placing their hope in material possessions. In your life, do you ever find yourself dealing with this condition of the heart by either priding yourself in or worrying over material possessions? How do the following verses help us combat these mindsets about finances and possessions?

Matthew 6:19-24

1 Timothy 6:6-10

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Looking back at these verses, what two or three points do you think would make the most difference in your life when put into practice?

3. Greed is one of the thieves of our contentment and ability to be generous. As you read the verses below, what's your response to God placing greed in the same category as the other sins?

Romans 1:29-31

Ephesians 5:3

Colossians 3:5

Why do you think God considers greed as serious as the other sins?

4. In Matthew 6:25 Jesus illustrated a number of distractions that can cause us to lack contentment and become greedy or money hungry. If you had the opportunity to rewrite this verse, are there any distractions you would add to make it apply even more specifically to you?
5. Looking back at the notes from this week's teaching, is there one thing you need to change regarding your finances?