

Digging Deeper for the week of May 16, 2010  
Based on Kerry Jech's sermon; "I am Responsible: For Being a Godly Steward"



**If you have access to the internet:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvCd\\_ANIKys](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvCd_ANIKys)



## MOM and/or DAD DISCUSSION QUESTION

"What are some things that motivate you?"

*Take a moment and ask each person in your family to respond and then follow up with this question.*

"What are some things that motivate you to overcome problems?"

### **Follow up with this thought.**

What is it that successfully helps you in overcoming your problems? What methods or advice successfully motivate you to lose weight, read a book, quit smoking, go to church, find a job, study hard in school, exercise, read your Bible, practice an instrument, train for a sport, etc.? Fear of punishment motivates some people, while the promise of a reward motivates others. Some are motivated by an intrinsic desire from within themselves to better themselves, while others are motivated by an extrinsic need to please others. And yes, some methods are better than others when it comes to maintaining our changes long-term.



*Bible Time!*

**Read Matthew 6:24...then read Matthew 6:1-4...For an online Bible: [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)**

Even though Jesus told us that we cannot love both "God and money," many American Christians have assumed God didn't know what He was talking about and concluded that we can indeed love both God and money. I am convinced THE first step to spiritual maturity is the understanding of the priority and the attitude Christians are to have toward God and toward money.



## MOM and/or DAD DISCUSSION QUESTION

"How does money motivate us in what we do as a family?"

"What is our attitude toward giving to the Lord?"

**How should what Steve Harvey talked about (in the clip we watched earlier) motivate us to do everything we do as a family including give?**

Giving out of obedience to God is a great first step toward spiritual maturity, and one we must all pass through. But, as we grow spiritually, I think there are even better reasons for giving to God and to others.

### **1. In response to a Need:**

When Jesus saw how dirty his disciples' feet were and that no one was moving to meet their need, he took a basin of water, a towel, and Jesus began to wash his disciples' feet himself (John 13:1-5). When the apostles were made aware that some widows' need for food was being neglected, the apostles took the necessary steps to make sure those needs were met (Act 6:1-6). Paul wrote to the Galatian Christians, "therefore, whenever we see a need and have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone, especially those who belong in the family of faith" (6:10). James said, "you do not have because you do not ask...." (4:2).

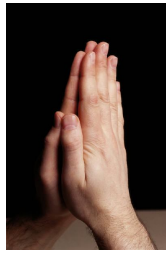
## 2. In Gratitude for God's Goodness:

There are two ways to view the money in our possession: "How much of my money shall I use for God?", or, "How much of God's money shall I keep for myself?" The Macedonian Christians whom I alluded to earlier, blew Paul away with the size of their gift to help the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. They were financially poor themselves. And the reason they were able to be so generous in spite of their own poverty, is because according to II Corinthians 8:5, "they first gave themselves to the Lord." They were generous because they belonged to God. They were sacrificial in helping others because they recognized how good God had been to them. What about us? If we have any income whatsoever, even if it's a \$.25 a week allowance, then we need to honor God by giving to God.



**If you have access to the internet:**

[http://www.tangle.com/view\\_video?viewkey=8fa05c414dc8ca5d56bb](http://www.tangle.com/view_video?viewkey=8fa05c414dc8ca5d56bb)



**PRAYER TIME**

*Close your discussion with a prayer, asking Jesus to help you see the needs of those around you. How can you give like Jesus?*

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