God's Perspective on P.M.S.

POWER, MONEY AND SEX BIBLE STUDY SERIES!

Welcome back to our online Bible study, God's Perspective on Power Money & Sex.  We have had CRAZY technical problems, but hopefully you have been able to download the study.  I guess that is why it is a called a pilot.  You can access the information on the Park Women's Ministry Walk in Faith blog at  http://asjoseph77.wix.com/womensministry. You can also access on the photo under the Questions About the Study? to access the blog. Let's start digging into week 2!  I have included the introduction to Day 1 of week 2, so you don't have to download it.

We will have until October 27 to finish weeks one and two. I hope this will allow you to complete the lessons and be prepared to engage with us on October 27th when we meet in person. If you are following us on-line we will make sure we comment.  Week 2 will be sent out throughout this week.   **The next in person class will be October 27th.  Don't forget to join us for Fall Revival starting tonight.**

***WEEK 2 POWER LESSONS DAY 1***

**GOD’S INTENTION FOR POWER**

Ephesians 3:20 NLT

Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.

2 Cor. 10:4 KJV

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty unto God for the pulling down of strongholds.

Luke 10:19 KJV

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt  you.

**Something to Share:**

Whenever I am working on the computer there seems to be an attack from a technology demon that makes working a struggle. I am often faced with a challenge to connect to the internet or to print. I find it is frustrating because I have to make myself sit still and work in the first place. (I have a little bit of an attention deficit disorder.) Often as I am in a flow, the need to find something on the internet arises and then the computer decides not to cooperate. It is as if it knows my critical working moments and decides not to comply. It says, “Unable to connect”.  Ok, now I am in investigator mode and I seek to figure out the problem. I check to see if our WiFi is on in the house. I run diagnostics and find the computer is not connected to the internet! My printer is wireless and so the internet needs to be up for me to print.  After spending precious time without results, I get my husband to help me. (I don't do the damsel in distress act very well.) After he comes in and jiggles come cables, presto, the computer works.  Needless to say I feel ridiculous! The internet cable to the computer was loose. I looked at it and it was attached.  It appeared connected, but obviously it was not. Some loose cables resulted in a connectivity problem and even though the power was on, I did not have full access to all the system was capable of producing.

How often is our spiritual life like that? We were connected, but somehow in our busy activity we lost the connection. It happens slowly and suddenly we realize there is no power behind our efforts. We are complaining and aggravated about what once flowed so easily. I must admit I had to run some diagnostics on my life, my schedule, my calendar. Had *I* added things or had I al-lowed God to show me where He was working? I realize when I am disconnected my activity is burdensome. I am stressed and what should be activity for God becomes me complaining and griping about getting it done. My power cables have become loose and I am not connected. God spoke to me and revealed that there were things that I felt I had to do that He had not called me to do. As a result my connection to studying his word had gotten squeezed out, my prayer time shortened, and my time with my children was suffering. I needed to tighten my connection. What about you? Are there areas where the cables may be loose?

Lord, You are the vine and I am just a branch. Help me to abide in you. I don't want to lose my connection. You alone are my power source.  Show me where I need tighten my connection so I may grow as you intend. May I bring forth fruit to the glory and honor of you name.

Leave a note on face book saying "I'm connecting to His power" or "I'm running a diagnostic on my cables.” Can’t wait to see your comments this week.

WEEK 2 POWER LESSONS

**Day 1: The Power of God’s Love**

Day 2: The Power of God’s Word

Day 3: The Power of Restraint

Day 4: Power over the Enemy

Day 5: The Power to Restore

The Power of Faith

***MEMORY VERSE***

***Matthew 28:18***

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying.  All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

***Day 1: The Power of God’s Love***

***Read John 15:1-17***

**The Vine and the Branches**

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

NIV

    We start this week focusing on the power of love. Gandhi says, “Power is of two kinds. One is obtained by the fear of punishment and the other by acts of love. Power based on love is a thousand times more effective and permanent than the one derived from the fear of punishment.” The power of love is seen best by looking at the life of Jesus. When examining the life of Jesus we see the presence and work of God’s power. It all started with love. In John 3:16 we see the epitome of love- For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. The love God had for us is so great he did not leave us without a way to come back to Him.

    This week we continue our focus on power, starting with the power of love. There are many types of love. I love that language can be so precise. The word love has several different meanings. There are at least 4 words that mean love. Philia, Eros, Storge, and Agape all mean love. The use of the Greek language gives us shades of differentiation in meaning for the word love. Philia is described as the love of friends or comrades. It means a companionable love or fondness. Eros is passionate, erotic love. The kind of love that is emotionally charged. Storge is the love of family; the kind of love parents have for their children. Agape love is unconditional love; the kind of love that sees beyond self and personal agenda. Agape love is self-less and giving without expecting in return.  Our society has a light, fluffy, cotton-candy meaning for love. It is light and sweet, but once it hits some liquid it quickly dissolves to almost nothing. That is not the power the love of God has for us. The love God has for us is far beyond our comprehension. He has a love for us that will not let us go! I am overwhelmed when I reflect on the magnitude of a God who could do all things and chooses to send His one and only son. Romans 5:8 God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. The basis of this love was established before Eve decided she just had to know a little more. God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. We are reminded in Matthew as Jesus says- Matthew 22:37-39.  Love should consume us. Love should seep into the pores of our existence. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment and the second is like it. You shall love the your neighbor as yourself.

    Speaking of agape love, is a lot easier than demonstrating this kind of love. But we must remember that love is a verb. It is not a noun to talk about and describe. Love is action that must be demonstrated. Love has the power to overcome evil, to forgive, and to place others needs above our own. This kind of love is not possible without our connection to Jesus. He is our power source and His love makes it possible for us to love. Often as women we look for love in all the wrong places. There is no greater love than the love of Jesus Christ. He knows the worst and yet loves us because He knows our potential for best. 1 Peter 4:8 says above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins. It is difficult for us to yield to others when we have not yielded to Christ. That is why Richard Foster in his book, *The Challenge of the Disciplined Life: Money, Sex and Power,* identifies love, humility, self-limitation, vulnerability and submission as marks of spiritual power. The power of God is seen in us when we move out of the way and allow Christ to be seen in us. In other words, when I am weak, then am I strong. (2 Cor. 12:10 NIV) Because it is no longer me but Christ in me that is doing the work.

    The power of God’s love is so great that nothing can separate us from His love. 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.(Romans 8:37-39 NIV)

**Accessing Your P.M.S. Touch Points**:

1. What are you to love the Lord your God with in Matthew 22:37?  “You must love the Lord your God with all your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, all your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and all your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What does it look like in your life to show love in each of these ways to God?
3. In John 15:2 above how is God demonstrating His love?
4. Using the definitions of love given from the Greek translations which type of love is most seen in your life?

**Activating Your P.M.S. Touch Points**:

1. In what areas of your life is it difficult to show love?
2. Demonstrate an act of agape love to someone who you know feels unloved.
3. Examine your current love relationships and ask if you are exemplifying the kind of love Jesus has for you to others.
4. Post your takeaway from today’s lesson on the blog or on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

(Optional) Going Deeper:

1. What verses in John 15 speak about love? What significance are the vine and the branches to our love relationship?
2. Where can you find a scripture that helps us define our neighbor? What do you learn from this?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13. Now, consider your two closest love relationships and examine if your are in line with 1 Corinthians 13.
4. How does Matthew 22: 37-39 in the New Testament compare to the Ten commandments in the Old Testament?
5. In John 21:15-19 when Jesus asks Peter does he love him (v. 15-17) which type of love is he referring to each time and why? What is the action Jesus

*Week 2-God's Power*

The power of God is seen in His word! In the book of Ephesians, the word of God is the only offensive weapon we have. Ephesians 6:17, take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Day 2: Power of God’s Word**

**Read Matthew 8:5-13**

**The Faith of the Centurion**

5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.6 “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.”7 Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?” 8 The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. 11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment. NIV

     As a speech and language pathologist by profession, I have a love for language and words. My work both with children and adults using language holds my interest in ways you could never imagine. As a new parent who was trained as a speech and language specialist, my children as toddlers were constantly getting language stimulation and indirect therapy because it was just a part of me. I was fascinated by their discovery of the power of words. When children can begin to ask for more juice or ask to go outside and see that their words produce a corresponding action, they begin to understand the power of the spoken word. Spiritually I was an infant for a very long time in this area of my life. As I am maturing spiritually (I am a work in progress), I have come to understand the power of communication with God. Matthew 7:7 says, “Ask and it shall be given, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you”.  Matthew 21:22, “And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” We can ask our heavenly Father.   I have learned that I do not have because I do not ask God. When I ask, I do not receive, because I ask with wrong motives, that I may spend what I get on my pleasures. (James 4:2b-3) I also know that communication requires that I listen more than I talk. As much as I have grown in my relationship with Christ I fear there are times when I am a spiritual adolescent consumed with myself- my problems, my stuff, my feelings and my self-image. I have to check myself when I find my prayers consist of asking more than praising, worshipping, thanking and interceding for others. We must activate the power of believing God’s word, memorizing God’s word, speaking God’s word, and praying God’s word.

When God speaks there is the power to create something out of nothing. In Genesis we see God speaking creation into existence. He says let there be light and there is light! The power of the word of God is seen throughout scripture. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

     Often when Jesus performed miracles he used his hands. The miracle in our text today is recorded in Matthew after Jesus heals a man with leprosy. In verse 3 of Matthew 8 we see Jesus reach out his hand and touch the man. Later again in Matthew 8 we see Jesus touch Peter’s mother-in-law and her fever leaves. In contrast there are some miracles where Jesus puts His hands on the situation and then there are others when Jesus speaks and at His word situations change. At his words, oceans lay prostrate and calm, at his word Lazarus walks out of a grave, at his word healing occurs. What needs the word of God in your life today? I don’t know about you but I am glad there is power in the word of God. His word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. His word does not return unto Him void but accomplishes every purpose for which it is sent. Heaven and earth shall pass away but His word will not.

    The story of the faith of the centurion is recorded in two of the gospels, Matthew and Luke. A centurion was an officer in the armed services of Rome. The name centurion comes from the fact that they command 100 men. To be a centurion meant there was a certain level of experience of skill that had been acquired. As a centurion, he was a person of rank and authority yet he was willing to seek one who had all authority. The centurion was able to say, only say the word and my servant will be cured. He understood the power and authority of who would be speaking the word. At Jesus’ command all things change. He speaks the word and even though the servant is not near enough to be touched, he is healed. What do you need God to speak to in your life today? Do you realize that he can speak over your situation? Notice the man had the faith to believe that Jesus could do it. Do you believe God can handle your situation? You speak about God but do you trust God to speak to the burden, to the trial, to the relationship, to the trauma, to the illness, to the need? In Matthew 8:13, the Bible says Jesus told the Centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.”  Do you believe God can? Do you believe God will? If it came down to what you believe what would your faith reveal? Then the challenge is to go and let it be done just as you believe! Stretch your belief to know with God all things are possible

**Accessing Your P.M.S. Touch Points:**

1. What situation in your life do you need Jesus to speak to?
2. What does the centurion say about his role as a leader?

**Activating Your P.M.S. Touch Points:**

1. Memorize a scripture that addresses an area of weakness in your life. Write it on an index card and place it in your car, on your bathroom mirror and on your refrigerator. Hide this scripture in your heart. Meditate on it, pray it and speak it out loud.
2. Post your scripture on Social Media or the Blog using #TPCPMS
3. Spend 2 minutes in silence and listen for God to speak a word to you about a situation in your life.
4. Examine the requests you have made to God. What are your motives?

**Going Deeper:**

1. What other miracles did Jesus perform by speaking?
2. How did Satan attempt to use the power of the word when tempting Jesus?
3. Does "ask and it shall be given" mean I can ask God anything and He will do it? Explain your answer with scripture.
4. What is meant by heaven and earth shall pass away but the word of God shall never pass away? What 3 Gospels can you find this scripture in?

***WEEK 2 POWER LESSONS DAY 3***

WEEK 2 POWER LESSONS

Day 1: The Power of God’s Love

Day 2: The Power of God’s Word

**Day 3: The Power of Restraint**

Day 4: Power over the Enemy

Day 5: The Power to Restore

The Power of Faith

**MEMORY VERSE
Proverbs 17:27 NIV**
He who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered.

**Day 3: The Power of Restraint**

**Read Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus is tested in the wilderness**

**Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness**

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”
4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands,so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” 7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**Power of Restraint**

     I must admit there have been more times than I care to remember when my inability to keep my mouth closed has gotten me into trouble. My inability to refrain from saying the first thing on my mind has resulted in me removing my foot from my mouth more than once. When it comes to restraint, I find sometimes more effort is required for me to not do something I feel compelled to do. (I often hear macaroni and cheese calling my name.) I also agonize over things I have said yes to when my no would have been more powerful. I succumb to our busy culture and the pull of activity knowing that often God is calling me to be still, to wait, listen and learn. In our culture there is little respect for what looks like inactivity. The hero is usually the one who does something, who acts, who takes charge. But in the economy of God often what seems right for the world is not His way. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. The bible says, “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow **to** **speak** and **slow** **to** become angry”. (James 1:19 NIV)

    The power of restraint is not just exercising self-control. It is the power to yield, to submit, to what God is saying rather than pushing through with what I want to do. A concept that aids our understanding of the power of restraint is seen in how a dam works. There are two primary functions of a dam. The first function is to store water to compensate for changes in the flow of a river or in the demand for water and energy. The second is to raise the water level upstream so that water can be redirected into a canal or to channel it into areas to generate power. Hydro-electricity is the term for power generated by harnessing the power of moving water. When considering this example it is easy to see how holding back allows for replenishing and for directing energy. What does God want to redirect in your life? Is it your time, your talent, your treasure, your desires, your goals, your relationships, your health? Where is he asking you to restrain yourself for future increase? Are there some canals with low water levels because you have not stopped? Can you wait on Him as He replenishes you? Are you listening for God’s instructions before acting? This lesson on restraint crosses over into every area of our study. The ability to restrain or control, our type of influence, to be good stewards of our money and to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God, requires a deeply rooted trust in God. The power of restraint is a crucial lesson for us and the best example is seen in the life of Jesus.

     Our text is Matthew 4: 1-11. Here we see Jesus being led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. I am reminded that we will be tempted. God always provides a way of escape. God is faithful and he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it (1 Cor. 10:13). At each temptation Satan invites Jesus to do something. Alicia Chole in her book *Anonymous* describes this 40 day experience as one temptation with three layers-appetite, applause, and authority. I believe that in each of these Jesus shows us how to resist the enemy and restrain ourselves from falling for the enemies scheme. Chole says, “Satan invited Jesus to use his divinity to satisfy the needs of His humanity.” God is calling us to look to him as Jesus did and use the power of His word to resist the devil. We have to relinquish our power to the one who has all power. We must submit ourselves to God. When we resist the devil he will flee. On so many levels we see the enemy pulling at our need to affirm who we are apart from Christ and to meet our own needs outside of His will for our lives. Do you feel the need to prove yourself or can you restrain yourself and let God reveal who He is in your life? Is there a pull to function outside the timing God has for you? The desire to run ahead and take a short cut to fulfill your purpose can be appealing but premature births have a hard time surviving. Allow God to nurture you and grow you and when He is ready you will be fully equipped. He who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Allow God to keep pouring into your life and listen for His voice before you open the floodgates and allow His power to be seen in your life.

**Accessing Your P.M.S. Touch Points:**

1. Which area is it most difficult to restrain- appetite (fulfilling perceived needs), applause (affirmation or approval by self or by man) or authority (power, possession and status)?
2. What were the three temptations in the text?
3. How are these seen in your life?
4. In Matthew 27:12-14 how did Jesus respond? What was the reaction?

**Activation Your P.M.S. Touch Points:**

1. Identify areas in your life where self-control is more difficult.
2. Find scriptures that encourage you and focus on submitting to God or God having control.
3. Practice being slower to speak this week. (smile)

**Going Deeper:**

1. Read 2 Peter 1:5-9. How is self-control a part of our faith walk?
2. How did David exercise the power of restraint with Saul?
3. How did David fail to exercise the power of restraint in other areas of his life? What were the consequences?
4. Galatians 5:22-24 How is self-control described?

***WEEK 2 POWER LESSON DAY 4***

WEEK 2 POWER LESSONS

Day 1: The Power of God’s Love

Day 2: The Power of God’s Word

Day 3: The Power of Restraint

**Day 4: Power over the Enemy**

Day 5: The Power to Restore

The Power of Faith

**MEMORY VERSE**

**Revelation 12:11 KJV**

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony and they loved not their lives unto the death.

**Day 4: The Power over the Enemy**

     As we have studied power we continue to look at an omnipotent God. We are faced with the reality of a God who is able to do ALL things. Growing up I used to watch wrestling with my mother’s mother, my Big moma. Wrestling was not like other sports. It was up close and personal. It required body contact not just a ball to throw or hit. We would watch the theatrics and see pretty boy Rick Flair and Roddy Roddy Piper. I was too little to know he was Rowdy, Roddy Piper. I didn’t know what rowdy meant. (I am telling my age.) What amazed me was there was a rule that allowed the opponent to tap the mat to signify they want to quit the match. There have been times when I have been pinned by the enemy but rather than tap out I reach out for the Savior. I especially liked the tag team matches because when they were exhausted they just needed to get to their team mate to bring in a fresh body to continue the match. How many of us know we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places? (Eph. 6:!2)* We have victory over the enemy because Jesus has taken the keys to death, hell and the grave and ALL power is in his hands. We know that in this world we shall have tribulation but we can be of good cheer because we know Jesus has overcome the world. (John 16:33) What battles are you fighting? Maybe you struggle with depression, maybe it is grief, health, relationships, finances or internal struggles that keep you from having peace. The Greek word used for overcome is nikao. It is a verb that means to conquer, to prevail to carry off the victory. I hear the Donnie McClurkin song playing in the background of my mind, “We are victorious, we are victorious, nothing can conquer us. Standing in the middle of the battlefield, nothing but victory on my mind. Never gonna stop, never gonna yield, more than a conqueror every time…”  I will not tap out. I will call upon the name of the Lord. The name of the Lord is a strong tower the righteous run to it and are safe. (Proverbs 18:10 NIV)

The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior;
my God is my rock, in whom I find protection.
He is my shield, the power that saves me,
and my place of safety. (Psalm 18:2 NLT)

     We have to remind ourselves that there is power in the blood of Jesus! He is overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. In other words what Christ did for us is POWER and paired with our testimony about what God has done can cause the enemy to tap out! We must confront the enemy even when it is us. I often have to remind myself of all God has done and what God can do. When we can focus on WHO God is and what He has done in the past we remember that we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus and that no weapon formed against us shall prosper. When we get pinned down we just need to remember we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. (2 Cor. 4:7-9 I will not tap out! I am ready for a reversal and a takedown.

     Imagine the battles you are facing and reach out to the King of Kings. I would love to hear from you on our blog or social media. Use #TPCPMS and tell me I will not tap out! Or share in a few words a testimony of what God has done for you. God has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Accessing Your P.M.S. Touch Points:**

1. In our key verse what two things overcome the enemy?
2. The blood of the lamb was used in the Old Testament for protection?
3. What do you think “they loved not their lives unto death” means?

 **Activating Your P.M.S. Touch Points:**

1. Write out your Personal Testimony in three parts. A) What your life was like before Christ, B) How you came to accept Christ and  C) How your life is different with Christ.
2. When you are faced with battles this week, recall God’s faithfulness in an area of your life and praise Him for what He has done.
3. Memorize some scriptures that will keep you from tapping out! Be prepared to share with the group or online.

**Going Deeper:**

1. What does it mean the weapons of our warfare are not carnal?
2. How is the word of our testimony a result of the blood of the Lamb?
3. Again we see the power of words. Make a connection to the full armor we learn about in Ephesians 6.

**WEEK 2 POWER LESSON DAY 5**

WEEK 2 POWER LESSONS

Day 1: The Power of God’s Love

Day 2: The Power of God’s Word

Day 3: The Power of Restraint

Day 4: Power over the Enemy

**Day 5: The Power to Restore**

The Power of Faith

**MEMORY VERSE**
Psalm 51:10-12
Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**Day 5: The Power to Restore
Read: Luke 6: 6-11NIV**

**Jesus Heals A Man's Hand on the Sabbath**

6 On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. 7 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. 8 But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Get up and stand in front of everyone.” So he got up and stood there. 9 Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?” 10 He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored. 11 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

     Restoration! Jesus has the power to restore. In the midst of opposition he shows restoration and healing despite what He knows the Pharisees and the teachers of the law are thinking. His awareness of a need is greater than the consequences of meeting the need. This text appears in Matthew 12:9-14 and in Mark 3:1-6 but here in Luke we see there are details that are not present in the other gospels. In Luke 6:6 we see that Jesus is teaching in the synagogue. The man with the shriveled hand is present. In Luke we see that it is his right hand. The right hand signifies the hand of favor. The right hand is the symbol for strength, power and omnipotence. "'Hand' most frequently represents the ownership, power, or control that its possessor exercises" (Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology).  The inability of this man's right hand to function symbolically may have meant a lack of power and a lack of strength. This man's physical impairment impacted his socialization in the culture. Is there an area of your life where you lack strength? What area of power is shriveled and not functioning  in your life? There is some immobility, some paralysis, some shriveled area where you have not been able to function normally. This man with the shriveled hand is in the crowd. He doesn't seek healing from Jesus. He is just a man in the synagogue listening to the teaching of Jesus. How awesome that he came for teaching and got healing! Have you ever found yourself with an unexpected blessing? You came for one thing and got another! His presence qualified him for the blessing. His presence was part of the selection for healing. Realize that sometimes just being present can bring about a blessing! Get in the presence of Jesus!

    In verse 8, Jesus knows what the Pharisees and the teachers of the law are thinking and he says to the man with the shriveled hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." Jesus asks the man to present himself. He can't hid in the back. He is asked to get up, to rise to the occasion, to elevate himself from seated to standing. Have you been hiding in the background? In order to receive restoration God needs you to stand up!  God asks the man with the shriveled hand to stand in front of everyone. Jesus wanted this done in plain view. He wanted a public statement that personal need is greater than religious laws. Finally, Jesus commanded the man to **stretch forth** his hand. He asked him to move what was once unmovable. He asked him to attempt to do what was not possible before. He asked the man to participate in his own healing with an act of faith. Where is God telling you to stretch forth? What needs to be stretched in your life? What needs restoration in  your life? Your joy, your family relationships, your marriage, your finances, your spirit?  Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51:10-12)

    As we have studied this week on the power of God, the theme of FAITH has been a common thread throughout the week. The man with the withered hand had the faith to believe as he attempted to stretch out his hand that a change would happen. Where do you need to exercise that kind of faith in your life right now? Without faith it is impossible to please God. When we come to him we must believe that He is and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. It is time to STRETCH!

**Accessing Your P.M.S Touch Points**:

1. What did Jesus do and say before he told the man to stretch forth his hand?
2. In verse 11, why were the Pharisees and the teachers of the law furious?
3. Was the restoration of the man's hand partial or complete? What does this tell you about Jesus?
4. Did the presence of opposition have an impact on Jesus' decision to heal the man with the shriveled hand?

**Activating Your P.M.S. Touch Points:**

1. Share with someone an area you feel is withered/shriveled in your life?
2. What opposition do you face regarding stretching in your life?
3. What would standing up and moving in the withered/shriveled area of your life look like?

**Going Deeper (Optional):**

1. In Joel 2:25-26 some versions of scripture use the word restore. The meaning is slightly different- how is it interpreted?
2. The first part of Luke 6 also relates to the law. What does v. 5 mean?
3. What point are these two examples used to make?
3.  What scriptures can you find that speak of the Lord's power of restoration?

Our next class is November 17th. We will discuss Week 3 and Week 4. If you are just join us, you can download the PDF from the blog. Week 3 is attached to the emails and will continue to be sent out throughout this week.  As you have requested we will also post the entire week for you to download.

***WEEK 3 MONEY LESSON DAY 1***

**MEMORY VERSE
1Timothy 6:17 NIV**
17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment

***THE HEART OF THE MATTER***

Money is often viewed as a source of security and identity for women.  Money can also be a place of misplaced trust.  Such as when the size of our bank accounts determines our level of security.  However, money is not meant to make us feel safe and secure.  Nothing material or human can provide true, lasting security.  God’s Word promises us that we will be blessed when we put our hope and confidence in the Lord alone (Jeremiah 17:5-7).

Our value and worth as individuals is not determined by how much we own.  It is based on our relationship with God.  Who we are in Christ determines our value.  Because of our relationship with Christ, we are:  LOVED, BLESSED, CHOSEN, ADOPTED, FAVORED, REDEEMED, and FORGIVEN!  (See Ephesians 1:3-8).

**SOMETHING TO SHARE**

“Not a Formula But a Fertile Life”

While away at a conference there was a pastor who asked me, “What did your husband do to get the church to grow?”. He wanted me to give him a formula for church growth. Something he could *do* to make it happen. This is what happens when we decide to imitate what we see others doing and think we can get the same results. The answer I gave him seemed to make him sad. I told him my husband did not seek church growth.  He did not pursue church growth or have church growth as a goal. His focus was to seek God, to pursue God and to focus on God and where God was working. Growth happened in our church not because of a plan or a strategy targeting church growth but because of God. There is not a formula, only obedience and trust planted deeply in the soil of our lives. God provides the

**The Rich and the Kingdom of God**

16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”17 “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”18 “Which ones?” he inquired.Jesus replied, “ ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.20 “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”21 Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”27 Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”28 Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

What we treasure the most will have the most control over us.  Nothing should come between us and our relationship with God. “Those who depend on riches to make them feel superior to others will eventually find out how poor they are.” Larry Burkett

***ACCESSING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS:***

1. This text starts out with the question, “Teacher, What must I *do* to earn eternal life?”. What did this question reveal about the man’s heart?
2. What have you been asking Jesus lately? What do your questions reveal about your heart?
3. Consider what Jesus was asking the young man to do.  The ruler had kept all the religious commands and laws; however, he was not willing to give up his material possessions to follow Jesus.  What possessions, people, or attitudes are you holding onto that prevent you from totaling surrendering control of your life to Jesus?
4. Has God recently asked you to give up something, material or otherwise?  If so, how did you respond?’

**ACTIVATING YOUR PMS TOUCH POINTS:**

1. The man had great wealth and was still seeking. We can erroneously use things as a substitute for relationship with God. Identify an area in your life that you have not fully given God FULL reign.
2. Pray for the ability  to release fully that area of your life to God.
3. Share with someone some practical steps you can take to make progress in releasing the area where God desires for you to change and trust Him.

**GOING DEEPER:**

**Read Genesis 22:1-18**

1. Are there any similarities between Abraham and the young ruler?
2. What are their differences – particularly as it relates to their response to God’s requests?
3. Why do you think Abraham’s response was different?

***WEEK 3 MONEY LESSONS***

Day 1: Money and Priorities- First Things First
**Day 2: Money and Resourcefulness- What’s in Your House?**
Day 3: Money and Contentment- Giving Above Receiving
Day 4: Money and Obedience- Can God Trust You with a Blessing?
Day 5: Money and Giving/Sowing

**MEMORY VERSE**
***But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19***

**Day 2: Money and The Power of Resourcefulness
*Read 2 Kings 4:1-37***

**Elisha and the Widow’s Oil**

1 A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves.” 2 So Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?” And she said, “Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil.” 3 Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. 4 And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones.”
5 So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought *the vessels* to her; and she poured *it* out. 6 Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “*There is* not another vessel.” So the oil ceased. 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you *and* your sons live on the rest.”

**SOMETHING TO SHARE**

     What do you have in your house? Recently, I had to raise money for a mission trip to Kenya. Given my history with money, worry started to kick in and I began to pray and ask God to not let me become anxious over what was needed.  I questioned God’s timing and his provision for this trip. After praying, I realized that paying for the mission trip was an act of faith. I had to trust God for what He was calling me to do. He would supply. I heard God say to me, what do you have in your house. I started by cleaning out my closet and found there were quite a few things that I did not wear as well as some nice things that had shrunk (nice way of saying I could no longer wear them). I found a nice upscale consignment shop and decided to take some items in. The following weeks I waited and a check came from the consignment store for $250.00 for some the items. Several weeks later another check came and another. God provided! I realized that I could sell some of my hats and do some writing to make some extra cash. I earned $100 for each article I wrote. God was continuing to provide. God was faithful and I was able to create income out of every idea he gave me to try. What am I saying? God is faithful; give Him something to work with!  I was reminded of the scripture, “He did all this so you would never say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’  Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.” (Deut. 8: 17-18 NIV) As we got closer to the deadline for funds, I was still short. I began to thank God for supplying the need before it was met. I was blessed by people who wanted to support the mission trip and the goal was met. What is in your house? Debt does not go away by itself. There is no genie that is going to come out of a bottle and erase your debt. There is not a prince charming on a white horse that can rescue you. I had to be the one to do the work! Yes, I had to stop spending and I also had to generate income as well. God has put so much in you. For some it is talent to use a skill to create extra income by decorating, providing childcare, writing for a blog, or selling what you cook. For others it is a garage sell, a consignment store, or making things you can sell. It is time for us to ask our selves when will we get serious about paying off our debt and what sacrifices are we willing to make to get it done?

**ELISHA AND THE WIDOW’S OIL**

     In our text a woman approaches Elisha and cries out. She is a widow of a prophet and describes her husband as a servant who feared the Lord. Her husband died and she was unable to pay the creditors. According to the law at that time, her sons would become indentured servants to pay off the debt owed. This helps us understand the scripture in Proverbs 22:7, the rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.  Elisha asks what he can do to help her and then asks what she has in her house. Stop right there! Why does he say, How can I help you? and then ask her what she has in her house?  He says tell me. Declare to me what you do have. In other words, I don’t want to hear what is lacking, I want to know what you can declare you have. What do you have in your house? What do you have that you can make available to God? Elisha’s way of helping her involved making use of what was available to her. There are times when God provides miraculously like using ravens to bring food to Elijah and there are times when God will take what we have and use it to bless us. Here Elisha asks her what she has available and she responds “nothing but a jar of oil”. What we think is nothing can be something when we make it available to God. It is believed that she had a small flask of oil. What you think is nothing is more than enough to meet your need when God has access to it. Elisha asks her to go and borrow empty vessels from everywhere. He is asking her to lay aside her pride and gather as many vessels as she can. The amount she was given was directly related to her capacity to hold the oil. Her blessing was related to her capacity to receive. How are you preparing to receive what God wants you pour out in your life? God can not fill a vessel that is already full! When we begin to empty ourselves we are ready to receive the oil God has for us. Is there any room in your vessel?

 **ACCESSING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS:**

1. In 2 Kings 4: 1-7 list all the actions Elisha asked that the widow to do.
2. What role did these actions play in meeting her need?
3. What were the consequences of unpaid debt for the two sons? How might our children suffer for our debts today? What lessons did she and her sons learn from this experience?
4. When did the oil cease? What connection can you make between the vessels and the pouring?

**ACTIVATING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS:**

1. List 3 things that are “in your house”. These can be items you can sell or skills you possess to create income.
2. Shift your thinking from what you do not have to focus on what you do have. Identify 3 things you are thankful for related to God’s provision.
3. Share a way God provided for you using your skill, talent or possessions and obedience.
4. How do you respond when God instructs you to take action in a situation that appears hopeless?

**GOING DEEPER:**

1. How was the miracle of Jesus feeding the multitude similar to the miracle in this text?
2. In 2 Kings 4:5, why did Elisha say go in and shut the door behind you and your sons?
3. What analogy/connection can you make between the “empty vessels" that were to be gathered by the widow and  yourself as an empty vessel for God to fill?
4. What does oil represent in the scriptures? Explain

***WEEK 3: DAY 3***

Day 1: Money and Priorities- First Things First
Day 2: Money and Resourcefulness- What’s in Your House?
**Day 3: Money and Contentment- Giving Above Receiving**
Day 4: Money and Obedience- Can God Trust You with a Blessing?
Day 5: Money and Giving/Sowing

***Memory Verse***
***“Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor forsake you.”***
***Hebrews 13:5***

***Day 3: Contentment: Giving above Getting***
***Read 2 Kings 4:8-37***

**The Shunammite’s Son Restored to Life**

8 One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. 9 She said to her husband, “I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. 10 Let’s make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us.”11 One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there. 12 He said to his servant Gehazi, “Call the Shunammite.” So he called her, and she stood before him. 13 Elisha said to him, “Tell her, ‘You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of the army?’ ”She replied, “I have a home among my own people.”14 “What can be done for her?” Elisha asked. Gehazi said, “She has no son, and her husband is old.”15 Then Elisha said, “Call her.” So he called her, and she stood in the doorway. 16 “About this time next year,” Elisha said, “you will hold a son in your arms.” “No, my lord!” she objected. “Please, man of God, don’t mislead your servant!” 17 But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.18 The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. 19 He said to his father, “My head! My head!”His father told a servant, “Carry him to his mother.” 20 After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. 21 She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out. 22 She called her husband and said, “Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return.” 23 “Why go to him today?” he asked. “It’s not the New Moon or the Sabbath.”
“That’s all right,” she said. 24 She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, “Lead on; don’t slow down for me unless I tell you.” 25 So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, “Look! There’s the Shunammite! 26 Run to meet her and ask her, ‘Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?’ ” “Everything is all right,” she said. 27 When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, “Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why.”
28 “Did I ask you for a son, my lord?” she said. “Didn’t I tell you, ‘Don’t raise my hopes’?” 29 Elisha said to Gehazi, “Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don’t greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy’s face.” 30 But the child’s mother said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So he got up and followed her. 31 Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy’s face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, “The boy has not awakened.”
32 When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. 33 He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. 34 Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy’s body grew warm. 35 Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. 36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, “Call the Shunammite.” And he did. When she came, he said, “Take your son.” 37 She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

            Our text involves a woman of substance and means. The Shunammite woman is wealthy and has great influence. We find her in the city of Shunem which is one of the cities of the tribe of Issachar during the time of the prophet, Elisha. In contrast to the widow who was in debt earlier in the text we see now a woman who has financial means. She is perceptive and states she believes he is a holy man of God. She shows kindness to Elisha. She goes out of her way to make a place for him to rest when he travels through her area. She provides a room with a bed, a table, a stool and a candlestick. She provides hospitality and by giving him a place to stay she supports his ministry. How do we show hospitality to those who come our way? Sometimes opening our home and providing a meal are ways to encourage those who serve others and provide encouragement to them. Elisha is taken with her kindness and asks what he can do for her. He asks if she would like for him to speak to the king or the commander of the army on her behalf. She responds with the statement, “I dwell among my own people”. She is content with her life and with her circumstance.

            The source of most of our financial stress is the lack of contentment. In the *Women of the Bible,* Dele Oke describes the Shunammite woman as having three qualities that are essential in every woman, contentment, compassion and persistence. She was grateful for what she had and was willing to share what she had with the prophet Elisha. Her response to his request to bless her in return revealed her content. Focusing on what she had kept her from worrying about what she lacked. Is that the case for you? Are you focused on all God has done or are you an “if only” girl? You know the thought that I would be happy, “If only\_\_\_.”. Is there something that goes on that blank in your life? The problem with being an “if only” girl is there will always be some area in your life that has an “if only”. The trap of materialism is that there is always more of something that is wanted. Notice I said wanted but not needed. When do your wants end? How much is enough stuff? Don’t misunderstand. I am not saying you should not have goals in life and that there should not be progress. I am saying seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these thing shall be added unto you. I am saying that a grateful heart has little room for discontent.

**ACCESSING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS**

1. When the prophet asked the wealthy woman what he could do in return for her, why do you think she indicated, “nothing”?
2. Using the three qualities listed by Dele Oke, contentment, compassion and persistence identify in the text the verses that show these characteristics in the Shunammite woman.
3. Notice the interaction between the woman and her husband in verse 9. What does she say to him and what preparations does she make for Elisha?

Why does the woman say do not get my hopes up in verse16?

**ACTIVATING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS**

1. How would you define contentment? Are there areas in your life where you are discontent? If so, why? What would you like to see different
2. His discontentment impacted your spending habits? If so, how?
3. Share one way you can be a blessing to someone with using what God has blessed you with.
4. Share a time when someones hospitality was a blessing to you.What connection do you see between discontentment, ingratitude and lack of trust?

**GOING DEEPER**
**Read 1 Timothy 6:1-11**
  What did Gehazi suggest the woman was lacking? How was this perceived in this culture?

1. In 1 Timothy 6:6-11 what does the bible say about contentment
2. What are some thoughts on the miracle of the boy coming back to life?
3. Where does Paul talk about contentment and what does he say?

Hint: ***Philippians***

**WEEK 3: DAY 4**

Day 1: Money and Priorities- First Things First
Day 2: Money and Resourcefulness- What’s in Your House?
Day 3: Money and Contentment- Giving Above Receiving
**Day 4: Money and Obedience**- **Can God Trust You with a Blessing?**

Day 5: Money and Giving/Sowing

**MEMORY VERSE**

Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now by it says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open up the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that you do not have room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shallot destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:10-11

***Day 4: Money and Obedience-Can God Trust You with a Blessing?***
***Read Acts 5:1-11***

***Ananias and Sapphira***

1 But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. 2 He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife’s consent, he kept the rest. 3 Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren’t lying to us but to God!” 5 As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. 6 Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him. 7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter asked her, “Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?” “Yes,” she replied, “that was the price.”
9 And Peter said, “How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too.” 10 Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.

Can God trust you with a blessing? I wonder if you were blessed with increase what would you do with it? I think there are times when God would want to bless me more but He is not sure that He can trust me with the increase. Giving from little or from plenty requires the same attitude. Giving is a matter of the heart, not an outward show of holiness. Christ looks not only at what we give but why we give. All we have is from God. We are just stewards of what God has given us. He asks us to be stewards not just of the 10% but of all He gives us. Our text reveals the hearts of both Ananias and his wife Sapphira. When we look at this text from a woman’s point of view we sense that there was some communication in the marriage prior to the time of bringing the money before the apostles. The text is in a time when people sold what they had and put it at the apostles feet so that there were no needy among them. The question arises why as a wife she condoned the “lie”. Did she value what the money more than the integrity of the gift? What about us? Do we hold back in our giving?

**ACCESSING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS**

1. Why do you think Ananias and Sapphira chose to act the way they did?
2. What was God’s response to their actions?  Why did He respond in this way?
3. What impact did God’s response have on those that were witnesses to this event?
4. How does our attitude and/or behavior in giving sometimes mimic Ananias and Sapphira’s?

 **ACTIVATING OUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS:**

1. Scripture says that Ananias consulted his wife before he made his decision regarding the funds received from their property sale.Sapphira had an opportunity to change the outcome of this situation - if not for her husband, for herself.However, she made the same unwise choice.Have you been in similar scenarios where to tell the truth about a particular financial situation would make you appear less spiritual than others perceived you to be?What did you decide to do?
2. Evaluate your own motives for giving.Ask yourself:Do I give because:a) others will think highly of me; b) I love God or c) I get something in return?Pray that God will reveal and correct any impure motives.
3. If you were to receive a large sum of money what would you do with it and why?
4. Find something that you can sell and give the money away.

 **GOING DEEPER:**

1. As a married couple, Ananias and Sapphira were both aware of the deceit in keeping back part of the price. Is the wife less accountable than the husband in the wrong doing? How does this apply to Ahab and Jezebel? See (1 Kings 21:9)
2. Commentary note- “It is often of fatal consequence for people to go to a greater length in profession than their inward principle will admit of.”
3. The first reference in Acts to the church occurs in this text. What part does this example give to both Christians and non-Christians
4. Compare this text to Achan in Joshua 7:1 and Barnabas in Acts 4:37. Note differences and similarities.

Week 3 Day 5

Day 1: Money and Priorities- First Things First
Day 2: Money and Resourcefulness- What’s in Your House?
Day 3: Money and Contentment- Giving Above Receiving
Day 4: Money and Obedience- Can God Trust You with a Blessing?
**Day 5: Money and Wisdom- A Virtuous Woman**

**MEMORY VERSE**
**For wisdom is a defense as money is a defense, but the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it.**
**Ecclesiastes 7:12**

Day 5: Money and Wisdom
Read Proverbs 31:10-31

**Epilogue: The Wife of Noble Character**

10 A wife of noble character who can find?
She is worth far more than rubies. 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.12 She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.
15 She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family
and portions for her female servants.16 She considers a field and buys it;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.17 She sets about her work vigorously;her arms are strong for her tasks.18 She sees that her trading is profitable,and her lamp does not go out at night.19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
22 She makes coverings for her bed;she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
23 Her husband is respected at the city gate,where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.24 She makes linen garments and sells them,
and supplies the merchants with sashes.25 She is clothed with strength and dignity;she can laugh at the days to come.26 She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
29 “Many women do noble things,but you surpass them all.”
30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.31 Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

We can’t discuss money and not talk about the Proverbs 31 woman. The wife of noble character teaches us lessons on money. She is not a woman who is lazy. She works and is diligent  in her interactions and transactions. When we look at the text we find that she has marketable skills and is an excellent manager of her household and her resources.  As we look at this text there are several principles of money management that we learn. This woman is not lazy. She uses wisdom in her purchasing. She creates income by using her gifts and talents to bless her household. She provides for both her family and those she employs. She makes what some would buy to save money and she watches over the affairs of her household. Do you see yourself in this scripture? Is wisdom a part of your purchasing and investing?

**ACCESSING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS:**

1. How does the Proverbs 31 woman make wise use of her time? Which verses support this?
2. What are the various ways she contributes to her household income? Which verses support this?
3. How are her efforts seen not just for her and her immediate family? Which verses support this?
4. What was her primary focus and responsibility?

**ACTIVATING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS:**

1. What can you begin to do tomorrow to become more like the Proverbs 31 woman?
2. What priorities can you establish that would allow you to function more like the Proverbs 31 woman? What would have to change?
3. In verse 16 she identifies a field and buys it and then takes her profits and plants a vineyard. What can you do to create a harvest based on skills you possess?
4. In verse 18 she sees that her trading is profitable. How can you make sure the items you must purchase are at the best price

**GOING DEEPER:**

1. The book of Proverbs has many scriptures related to work and diligence. Find several and make them applicable to your current situation. Example: Proverbs 12:11
2. What does it mean to fear the Lord?
3. In verse 31:8 it states her candle goeth not out by night. What does that mean in the context of this passage?
4. What connection do you see to Matthew 25 related to candle not going out?

Our next class is November 17th. We will discuss Week 3 and Week 4. If you are just joining us, you can download the PDF from the blog. Week 4 is attached to the emails and will continue to be sent out throughout this week.  As you have requested we will also post the entire week for you to download.

**WEEK 4 GOD’S PERSPECTIVE ON MONEY**

Day 1: Daily Provision
Day 2: Discipline
Day 3: Giving
Day 4: Asking
Day 5: Saving

MEMORY VERSE
Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11

**Day 1: Daily Provision**
**Read Exodus 16: 1-35**

**Manna and Quail**

1 The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. 2 In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. 3 The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. 5 On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, 7 and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” 8 Moses also said, “You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD.”9 Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’ ”10 While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. 11 The LORD said to Moses, 12 “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’ ”
13 That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14 When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. 15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. 16 This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omerf for each person you have in your tent.’ ”
17 The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. 18 And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed.19 Then Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.”20 However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them. 21 Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. 22 On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. 23 He said to them, “This is what the LORD commanded: ‘Tomorrow is to be a day of Sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.’ ”24 So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. 25 “Eat it today,” Moses said, “because today is a sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today. 26 Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any.” 27 Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. 28 Then the LORD said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions? 29 Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where they are on the seventh day; no one is to go out.” 30 So the people rested on the seventh day. 31 The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey. 32 Moses said, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the wilderness when I brought you out of Egypt.’ ” 33 So Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come.” 34 As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna with the tablets of the covenant law, so that it might be preserved. 35 The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.
(NIV Blue Letter Bible)

**SOMETHING TO SHARE**

Maybe you are a person who always knows how your needs will be met. I experience wondering how my ends are going to meet quite frequently. I wish I could say that I am calm, cool and collected as I wait and listen for God’s direction. I want my ends not just to meet, but I want my ends to spend some significant time together! The more I worry, the more God reveals that there are some faith lessons for me in every financial experience. In my tithing, in my offering, in my giving, in my sowing, in my attention to my spending habits, in my surrendering of wants and even in my creation of a budget there are faith lessons.
I needed a new mind! I had become accustomed to lack. The “not enough” girl in me needed to be replaced with the woman who knows that I serve a “more than enough” God. I believe I keep getting it until I get it! God desires for us to trust that He is the provider. He provides every good and perfect gift. Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. (Psalm 34:10) My God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in glory! I had to learn that I was in a manna season! God was testing me to see if I could trust Him when it was monotonous and boring (day in and day out), when it was just enough (daily), when my obedience to his law meant stopping (Sabbath) and depending on Him. He was providing tests so I would have a testimony. What about you? Do you believe God has daily provision or do you need to see the weekly plan? Are you a grumbler when things become too routine? Can you trust God when you can’t trace Him? Do you wish for other things and miss enjoying what you have? Meaningful Manna!

**Meaningful Manna**

Can you imagine what it looked like to see the whole Israelite community traveling from Elim with their supplies getting low and nothing but desert ahead of them. They start to wonder how their ends are going to meet. The entire group began to complain about their leadership. They feel as if they are being led without access to provisions. The desert does not lend itself to producing food and water. All of a sudden they blame the leaders, Moses and Aaron. Rather than trusting God for what lies ahead they began to wish for what they left behind. How often do we grumble over the unknown and wish to retreat to the familiar despite how confining and oppressive it was? The people begin to have some “if only” moments. Let’s not be critical of the Israelites because the truth is we see ourselves in them. It doesn’t take much for us to move into “if only” mode! The mode where discontentment clouds our minds and instead of focusing on what *is* we begin to see what *is not*! “If only” I had a better job, “If only” I paid off the school loan. “If only” someone would help me. “If only” my parents were alive. “If only” I came into some extra money. “If only” I didn’t have these medical bills. “If only” I was married. “If only” I had not gotten married. “If only” I had more\_\_\_\_\_.  What are you complaining about? What are you grumbling about?
God told them that their grumbling was not against Moses and Aaron it was against Him. (V.7)
God will provide for you in a form you have never experienced before. He will work in such a way that you will say like the Israelites, “What is it?” Every time God works in an unknown way just say “Manna”. God has some daily provision with lessons attached for us. Lessons in obedience and trust are learned from manna.

Lesson:

1. Obedience-The people had to obey the instructions and trust in God’s provision. Exodus 16:4
2.  Understand Needs vs. Wants- There would be no hoarding or taking more than you needed. A greedy and stingy attitude produces decay. Exodus 16:16,19
3.  Work- You must participate in obtaining the provision. It had to be gathered. Go get your blessing! Exodus 16:16
4. Faith is needed as you seek God daily for all provision
5. Double gathering on Friday for Sabbath shows trust in God’s ability to provide when we keep His commands and rely on Him and not us.
6. God’s provision is a testimony of who He is. Exodus 16:32-34

**ACCESSING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS**

1. Where were the Israelites when they grumbled against Moses and Aaron?
2. What was the “if only” statement (use NIV) made by the Israelites? What did they remember from their past and what did they forget?
3. What were the instructions for the getting the bread that the Lord would rain down from heaven?
4. In Exodus 16:12 what did the Lord hear?

**ACTIVATING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS**

1. What do you complain about the most? How does this complaint reveal what you think about God?
2. Which of the lessons on manna was most meaningful to you and why?
3. How might God be testing you in this season of your life?
4. Memorize Matthew 6:11 and say it aloud every morning for a week. Replace any “if only” statements with trust in God for DAILY provision and gratitude at the end of the day for that provision. Example: Morning: Lord thank you for giving me this day my daily bread.  Evening: Lord thank you today that you provided \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**GOING DEEPER:**

1. Find the meaning of Elim and record what was available in Elim. What is the significance of being between Elim and Sinai?
2. What did the Israelites say when they saw the bread? Why?
3. In Exodus 16:22-24 explain the double on the sixth day and discuss the significance of Sabbath and trusting God
4. Explain the difference in the manna that lasted just in the morning, two days and years? Why do you think the manna stopped when they got to the border of Canaan? Exodus 16:21, 29, 33, 35
5. What is Jesus called related to bread? What comparisons can you make to this text?

**WEEK 4 GOD’S PERSPECTIVE ON MONEY**

Day 1: Daily Provision
Day 2: Discipline
Day 3: Giving
Day 4: Asking
Day 5: Saving

MEMORY VERSE
So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?” Luke 16:11

**Day 2: Discipline**

 **Read Matthew 25: 14-30 NIV**

14  “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15  To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16  The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17  So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18  But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.19  “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20  The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’21  “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’22  “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’23  “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’24  “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25  So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’26  “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27  Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.28  “ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29  For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30  And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**SOMETHING TO SHARE**

Have you ever sat on something so long that its value is not what it could have been if you had done something with it? You know when you had an idea to invest in some stock and because you were unsure you just put the money away in a jar or under a mattress. When I was little I used to watch the Beverly Hillbillies. (Telling my age again.) For those of you who are too young to know what I am talking about,  it’s a television show about a country mountaineer, Jed Clampett. He accidentally finds oil on his land while hunting and moves his family to Beverly Hills. His simple lifestyle and unsophisticated way of life magnify the self-obsessed, money hungry, superficial life of “city folk”. Even Jed Clampett from the Beverly Hillbillies is convinced to put his money in the bank to earn money instead of keeping it at home. His neighbor and banker Mr. Drysdale is willing to do just about anything to keep the Clampett account, while Jed is ok with giving away money.  What is sitting around that you need to invest? God has trusted you with some money bags (talents)? What will you have to give an account for when He returns?

**Discipline to Work**

The parable of the money bags (talents) speaks to us about the responsibility to do something with what God has given us. Our ability to work and participate pleases God. Faith without works is dead. It does us no good to expect the sky to open and blessings to drop from it if we are not willing to do the work. Even when God provided manna for the Israelites, the people were required to get up early and retrieve it. If they waited too late in the day the sun would come out and the manna would melt. When God gives you something are you able to make it work for His good? Does fear keep you from using what God has given you? “Good servants feel the responsibility of their assignment and go to work without delay.” We must be diligent with what we have. That means we need to learn how to live below our means, how to invest wisely, how to bargain shop and apply wisdom to our use of money on a daily basis. We talk about wanting to hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant, you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things”, but what are we doing with what God has given us. Are we tithing? Are we good stewards? Are we investing? Are we givers? Are we spending money on what we want and borrowing for what we need? Are we valuing things over people?

**ACCESSING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS**

1. What two qualities does the master use to describe the servants who had 5 and 2 money bags (talents)?
2. What were the three things the first two servants received from the Master?
3. Why did each servant get a different amount? What do you think they thought about what each received?
4. What was the relationship between what was given and what was produced?

**ACTIVATING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS**

1. What temptations or assumptions might the servants have made because of the delay in the masters return?
2. What keeps you from acting/working with what God has given you?
3. Repeat the memory verse and share with someone what it means to you.
4. How did the servant with one talent view it? How do you view what God has given you?

Decide on two actions to put to use what God has given you.
**GOING DEEPER:**

1. Compare Matthew 25:1-13 to Matthew 25:14-30. What similarities do you notice?
2. What do we learn when Jesus says, the kingdom of heaven is like? Can you find other statements in Matthew where Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like….. What lessons on money do you glean?
3. In Romans 1:1 and Titus1:1 who calls himself a servant? Are you a servant of God?

WEEK 4 GOD’S PERSPECTIVE ON MONEY

***WEEK 4: DAY 3***

Day 1: Daily Provision

Day 2**:** Discipline

Day 3: **Giving**

Day 4: Asking

Day 5: Saving

MEMORY VERSE

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38

**Day 3: Giving**

**Read Mark 12:38-44**

Warning Against the Teachers of the Law

38 As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, 39 and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. 40 They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”

The Widow’s Offering

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

**SOMETHING TO SHARE**

 As I was reading stories of giving, I found a story by Debbie Burns entitled, “The Widow’s Mite.. A Modern Day Story”. She shared a story of working in a community services disaster response program in Jeffersonville, Indiana. After tornados devastated parts of south east Indiana children began to send in notes and money to help with disaster relief. A toddler in Indianapolis gave his mom all the money he had, $2.43 to help other children. There was a set of twin girls age 4 that gave their $25 Christmas gift cards and made notes saying, “I hope you get your house fixed.” As we grow older there is a lot we can learn from children. In Matthew 18:3 and he said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven”. Faith that trusts God and can give without hesitation. Faith that can look at the last two coins and give BOTH away. How often have we looked at what we have and divided it to give? Do you have FAITH to trust Jesus with more than half? Trust God with it all! It all belongs to Him anyway!

**Giving Requires Sacrifice and Faith**

This account of the widow’s mite appears both in Luke and in Mark. Our text begins with the teachers of the law enjoying recognition and places of honor. The New Living Translations says they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. The contrast between these teachers and the widow is drastic. We see Jesus sitting near the collection box in the temple. He is watching as the offering is given. Are we aware that Jesus is watching? The thought of Jesus observing who was giving, how they were giving and what they were giving relative to what they had is eye opening. He doesn’t comment; he just observes. Would our giving change if we visualized Jesus standing beside us as we filled out our envelope and put our money in the basket or plate? The omniscient nature of God means that He knows all things. That includes our attitude in giving, our ability to give and our faith in giving. Jesus watched as many rich people put in large amounts and he knew they were giving very little based on what they had. Jesus sees this widow. A woman. Alone. A poor woman who is marginalized because of her widowhood. She lacks resources and power. She is small, poor, and insignificant in their eyes. The scripture says they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has to live on. We see faith in action. Jesus uses a woman to teach a lesson on giving. This woman is evidence of faith. How we give reflects the condition of our hearts. The widows exterior may have been poor but her interior life with God was rich. Her faith creates a teachable moment for Jesus with the disciples. What is the evidence of our faith? What does giving reveal about the condition of our hearts?

**ACCESSING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS**

1. When Jesus calls the disciples in verse 43 what lesson does he want them to learn?
2. What did the widow have to give? What did she give? What does this teach us about what type of giving God is looking for?
3. What were the scribes, teachers of the law doing to make themselves look good? How is this seen today?

**ACTIVATING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS**

1. Take out your checkbook and view it from God’s perspective. Imagine Jesus doing an audit of your spending. What does God see when he looks at the register?
2. What motivated the woman to give? What motivates you to give?
3. Share an example of sacrifice and faith behind giving in your life.

**GOING DEEPER:**

1. What was the name of the coins the widow gives? Hint: It is not mite  About how much was it equivalent to?
2. Often the text for the widow is separated from the rest of Mark 12. Look at the entire chapter and note other references to money and stewardship and share.  Is there a theme or a thread that runs through the chapter?
3. What did the widow at Zarephath do for Elijah? Any similar lessons?
4. Explain the tithe and give scriptures related to tithing. What is meant by the term, “not equal giving but equal sacrifice.**”**

**WEEK 4 GOD’S PERSPECTIVE ON MONEY**

Day 1: Daily Provision
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Day 5: Saving

**MEMORY VERSES**

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

Day 4: Asking
Read 2 Kings 8:1-6 NIV

(1) Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Go away with your family and stay for a while wherever you can, because the LORD has decreed a famine in the land that will last seven years." (2) The woman proceeded to do as the man of God said. She and her family went away and stayed in the land of the Philistines seven years. (3) At the end of the seven years she came back from the land of the Philistines and went to appeal to the king for her house and land. (4) The king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, and had said, "Tell me about all the great things Elisha has done." (5) Just as Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, the woman whose son Elisha had brought back to life came to appeal to the king for her house and land. Gehazi said, "This is the woman, my lord the king, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life." (6) The king asked the woman about it, and she told him. Then he assigned an official to her case and said to him, "Give back everything that belonged to her, including all the income from her land from the day she left the country until now." (2Ki 8:1-6 NIV)

**SOMETHING TO SHARE**

 Have you ever experienced a famine in your life? A spiritual famine, a financial famine? There are seasons of scarcity in our lives. Seasons that drive us to seek God in ways we typically do not. Coming out of those seasons requires boldness, faith and sensitivity to God’s timing. There are windows, spaces where we can sense God calling us to move, to speak up, to initiate. What we do in those moments tells what we believe about God. Asking has within it the belief that a response might be favorable. To ask means you believe the person you are asking has within their ability to respond yes. I have observed this in my household. Sometimes when one of my children wants something or to do something there is a hesitancy to ask. I hear, “It’s ok. I am not going to ask because you are going to say no anyway.” I have even seen one child sit and look at their dad eating something and really want some but not ask for it. The food is present. The food is on the plate. She can see it and they can smell it, yet she does not ask for it. You know what this looks like. Picture sad eyes staring at the food, a baby voice asking is it good and waiting for him to say, would you like to have some. Meanwhile the kid who was bold enough to ask has already asked for some and has finished eating the food! God has some plates for you with wonderful delicacies. They are available to you but asking is required. Do you ask God or do you wait for him to offer? There are times when God will offer, and there are also times when God wants us to ask! He says call upon me and I will show you great and mighty things you know not. (Jeremiah 33:3)  Are you sitting and looking at what God already plans to give you?  Maybe it is time for us to seek God and ask!

**Asking Requires Boldness and Faith**

            In our study today we revisit the Shunammite woman. It is important to recall what we know about this woman. She is the woman who was a blessing to Elisha. She is kind. She is the woman who created a space for the prophet when he was passing through. She is generous. She is the woman when asked what she wanted stated that she was happy among her people. She is content. She is the woman who didn’t ask for a son but was blessed with a son. She is blessed. She is the woman who wasn't afraid to go find Elisha and tell him her son was dead. She is assertive. She is the woman whose son was resurrected by Elisha. She has seen a miracle. This woman had a history of faith in who God is and what God could do. Her story continues in 2 Kings 8. She was obedient to leave during the famine and stay in a foreign place for 7 years. Now that it is time to return we find she is a widow and when she returns her property is no longer available to her. She goes to appeal to the king. The greek word for appeal or to cry is tsa aq which means to cry out, especially for aid.  It is the same word used in Psalm 34:17 The righteous cry and the Lord hearth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
            I like that we can follow the life of this woman through her ups and her downs. We see a rhythm to her life, a boldness is evident both in the previous text and in this text. She is a woman who knows when, where and how to ask for what she needs. There are several lessons we learn from this.

1. Obedience may not be comfortable or easy but it is beneficial. She responds to the request to spend 7 years in a foreign place. God provided for her in the land of the Philistines. God will provide in foreign seasons of our life. Periods when all we know for sure is Him. Famines draw us closer to God and through our faith and obedience he meets our needs.
2. Sometimes speaking up is necessary to claim what is rightfully yours. To go see the king and approach him about her need took boldness and faith. She had to make the journey to ask the king. Asking according to the will of God. 1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. We have not because we ask not. Our motives must be pleasing in His sight.
3. A coincidence is often the providential will of God. The woman shows up to make her request when the King is asking Gehazi to tell him about all the great things that Elisha has done. It is not a coincidence that when he tells the king about Elisha restoring the dead to life that the woman arrives to request restoration of her house and land. God is in control! God works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will. (Ephesians 1:11)

God can restore what we believe is lost! God gives back more than she had to begin with! He gives her back everything with interest for all 7 years she was away! How awesome that God can restore and provide more. She received all the income from her land from the day she left until now. God went back and blessed her in her absence for her obedience to His will. What if she had not made the journey to ask? What is God saying trust me and see if I can’t restore to you in ways you have never imagined? God is our PROVIDER!

**ACCESSING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS**

1. Where was the woman instructed to go? How long was she to stay there?
2. Which lesson from the text speaks to you at this time in your life? Why?

In verse 6 what does the King ask her? What is his response to her answer?
**ACTIVATING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS**
 Is it easy for you to follow instructions when they are not comfortable? Would you have moved for 7 years or prayed and asked God why couldn't he bless you without having to move? Give some real life examples. How might God be asking you to adjust so that He can meet your needs?

1. Are you a person who is comfortable asking when you need something? Why or why not? Give an example

What area of your life is in need of restoration? What can you do to facilitate restoration?

**GOING DEEPER:**
Read 2 Kings 7

1. Explain the provision of God based on a risk taken by the four leprous men.
2. What was their expectation? What did the Lord do?
3. How did they respond to the Lord’s provision?
4. How did the prophecy come true?
5. Read 2 Kings 4:13. What was the woman's response when asked if she wanted Elisha to make a request of the king.
6. How is what happened with the Shunammite woman similar to what happened to Job? What does this tell us about God?
7. Explain Joel 2:25-26

**WEEK 4 GOD’S PERSPECTIVE ON MONEY**

Day 1: Daily Provision
Day 2: Discipline
Day 3: Giving
Day 4: Asking
**Day 5: Saving**

**MEMORY VERSES**

The wise have a generous supply of fine food and oil in their homes, but fools
are wasteful, consuming every last drop. Proverbs 21:20 (The Voice)

**Day 5: Saving**

**Read Genesis 41:41-49 NIV** (you may want to read 28-49)

**Joseph in Charge of Egypt**
41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.” 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, “Make way!” Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. 44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt.” 45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt. 46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt. 47 During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. 48 Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. 49 Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.

**SOMETHING TO SHARE**

I am not a fan of reality television shows. There is one show that comes on called, Hoarders. “Hoarders” is a show about people who have a desire to have more and more things. They become so attached to the things they have that they cannot part with them and often the amount of things makes it difficult for them to move or walk in their own home. The question is how much is enough? How much stuff can we possibly need? There are two extremes. People often justify this as saving when in actuality it is a disorder. The accumulation of items in this case is not with realization or regard for eternal value or for generosity but a selfish motive. This is not saving. This is more like the Rich Fool in Luke 12 who stored more and more in his barns for himself and was not rich toward God. What motivates us to save? Are we planning for future or are we storing up more and more and more?

The opposite extreme is spending every bit of what we have. In our memory verse that is considered wasteful.  Are we squandering or devouring all we have. What is worse is that we live in a culture that does not just spend every dime but we spend money we do not have. It’s called credit! The bible says rich rule over the poor and the borrower is slave to the lender (Proverbs 22:7). Debt keeps us in chains and prevents us from the freedom God desires for us.  When you earn money or receive money do you try to spend every bit of it? Are you one who spends until all you have is gone and look for ways to afford something beyond what you have available? This is also not pleasing in God’s eyes.

 God desires for us to achieve a balance and honor him with our finances. Our saving should serve two purposes, to provide for our family to our children’s children and to be generous to others. Our security is in Christ and not in our finances or savings.

**PAST PREPARATION, PRESENT SAVING, FUTURE PROVISION**

In our text Joseph has come from prison. He was allowed to wash and shave to go before Pharaoh to see if he could interpret a dream. Joseph gives God the credit for interpreting the dreams and he warns Pharaoh of coming abundance followed by famine. We are all faced with times of famine and times of abundance.

 One lesson in the text is the importance of discipline to prepare for lean times. It is not that lean times will not come. The question is when lean times do come are we prepared? Joseph 1) puts a plan in place and then 2) works to execute the plan and 3) oversees the follow through of the plan to completion. He didn’t live it up during the years of abundance. (v. 47) He saved! He placed the food in every city from the fields around it. He used what was abundant and stored it for the future from what was near. The fruitfulness of the land was also seen in Joseph’s life. He named one of his sons Ephraim meaning the Lord has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction. God can provide for you in such a way that you are able to forget the hardships and enjoy fruitfulness! Joseph’s faithfulness to God was evident in plenty and in lack, in leadership and in prison. How are you experiencing forgiveness and fruitfulness? Are you preparing for what God wants to do with you? If this is a time of abundance how are you preparing? God used every situation Joseph faced to prepare him to be skilled and disciplined enough to manage the abundant harvest. How is God preparing you? Can God send a harvest your way? Can He trust you to manage abundance? Are you prepared to handle the harvest?

Joseph’s brothers go to visit Joseph and when he reveals himself he says there have been 2 years of famine and 5 more are still to come. God uses Joseph to provide for them in the time of famine. God will provide! God can use your past to prepare you for your present to bless you in the future!

**ACCESSING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS:**

1. What did Pharaoh do for Joseph when he put him over the land? How was this different from his previous lifestyle? What temptations might he have faced? (verses 37-45)
2. What is the difference between hoarding and saving?
3. How does Joseph recommend they prepare for the famine?
4. Have you experienced seasons of abundance and famine in your life? If so, what did you do in each season?

 **ACTIVATING YOUR P.M.S. TOUCH POINTS:**

(You may not like it but do not skip this section this week!)

1. Do you have a plan in place for saving? If you do not have a savings plan begin today to create a savings account without minimum fees.

A. Because you do not know what emergencies are coming, plan like Joseph to be prepared. Create an emergency fund starting with $500 and build it to $1000.00.        (Dave Ramsey baby step #1)
  B. Dave Ramsey suggests 3-6 months of expenses should be in your savings account after you have paid off consumer debt. (Dave Ramsey) List the consumer debt you need to eliminate. If you have eliminated your consumer debt state your plan for 3-6 months of savings.

1. Cut up some credit cards! Commit to living within your means so that you can begin to be free from the shackles of debt. Share with a partner what card you plan to eliminate. If you do not have a card, share what debt you would like to eliminate.
2. Identify competing goals that take priority over saving. List them below. Are you eating what you could be could be saving? Are you wearing it?
3. Get SERIOUS about your finances and register for Financial Peace University in 2015! It will be offered twice.

 **GOING DEEPER:**

Read Proverbs 6:6-8 below

1. What lessons do we learn from the ant? Go to the ant, you sluggardconsider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man. Proverbs 6:6-8
2. How did Joseph’s dream come true? What did Joseph have to go through to get to this point in his life? What attitude did he have through his experiences? How did what he experience in his past prepare him for leadership?
3. What does Genesis 45:4-15 tell you about provision? What provisions did Joseph’s brothers receive? 45:16-24 What does this tell you about God?