

## Discussion Questions & Quotes For July 7 thru 13, 2024

—“God won’t merely judge us on the basis of how much we gave, but on the basis of what we did with what we kept for ourselves.”

—**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—“The measurement of our commitment isn’t in how much we give, but in how much we hold back.”

—**Chuck Swindoll**

—“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.”

—**C. S. Lewis**

—“Where I was born and how I have lived are unimportant. It is what I have done with where I have been that should be of interest.”

—**D. L. Moody**

—“My checkbook (bank statement) is a theological document. It reveals who and what I worship!”

—**Billy Graham**

—“Money is emphasized in Scripture simply because our temptation to love it is inexplicably powerful!”

—**Erwin Lutzer**

—“We Christians cannot talk about loving God until we come to grips with our raging passion for ourselves!”

—**Larry Crabb**

—“You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving.”

—**Amy Carmichael**

—“Because I’m a faithful follower of Christ, my stewardship over what God has provided becomes closely connected to the measure of my gratitude to the Lord: in reality, it’s all about how we live our lives in response to God’s mercy, grace, and unfailing love!”

—**GAD**

—“Money is one of the acid tests of character and a surprising amount of space is given to it in Scripture. Whether a man is rich or poor, observe his reaction to his possessions and you have a revealing index to his character.”

—**Oswald Chambers**

—“God isn’t after your money. He’s after your heart.”

—**Moody Media**

—“We are all stewards, you and I. All that we have is from God and that includes far more than just our money and our possessions. God has made us managers of truth and time and talent and treasure and, generally, how we handle our money is an example of what we do with the rest of God’s gifts that he gives us as well.”

—**David Jeremiah**

—“God doesn’t bless us just to make us happy; He blesses us to make us a blessing.”

—**Warren Wiersbe**

## —Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—Please grab your Bible & get ready to see how our lives will change when we give God’s Word the **appropriate attention** it deserves. In our sin-saturated society, there are many distractions nagging at us & it’s a wise choice to take time to hear God’s voice speak to us in Scripture.

—**1}** *Nehemiah led a **restoration project** in Jerusalem where he helped (first) **rebuild the city walls** & (second) **revive the people’s worship**. Why was it wise and also helpful for Nehemiah to rebuild the walls before he attempted to reestablish the practice of worship? (Hint: How did Nehemiah gain the people’s support & trust?)*

—**2**— After building the walls, the Jewish people asked Ezra to teach them from God’s Word. This brought about a genuine sense of spiritual renewal. They asked for more from Ezra & agreed to a binding promise to obey God’s Law. This required some adjustments in their behavior. They placed **God’s glory** above their **personal gratification**. They prohibited foreign marriages & prevented business on the Sabbath. Finally they emphasized proper financial stewardship: tithes/offerings & abiding by the Jewish calendar. Some Church leaders say that if our faithfulness costs us nothing, it’s not worth what it should be. What personal thoughts do you have about this? How can we train ourselves to be godly without falling into a strict sense of **do this & don’t do that**?

—**3**— *Our consistent commitment to obey & glorify the Lord involves a change of heart from the internal work of God’s Spirit & the influence of God’s Word. This leads to adjustments in our attitudes & actions. One of the most uncomfortable changes for many people involves financial stewardship. Please see the sermon notes & read 2 Corinthians 9:6–15; Galatians 6:6–10; & 1 Timothy 6:6–11. In Nehemiah, the Jewish people were required to give to the work of the Temple. Based on Scripture, we’re not under any legal constraints to give to the Church. **But**, the Bible warns about loving money & says that **God loves a cheerful giver**.*

—How can we guard against the love of money?

—Is it right or wrong for us to work hard to obtain financial success?

—How can a faithful Christ follower draw the line on luxury in a culture like ours? —How can we avoid the dangers listed in 1 Timothy 6:9-10?

—What are the biggest hindrances to generous giving among Christians in our culture? Or in your own life? —What does it mean for us to give out of obedience to the Lord when we’re not under any specific law?

—Why (main purpose) should we give to the work of the Lord?