

The Pastor & His Money

-by Pastor Rob Buhl, MBA

Preaching About Money

I believe that pastors should preach about money, from the pulpit, on Sunday morning – every year. As much as we’re told that money can be a taboo topic in church, I have found that people really do like to talk about money and people are curious about what God thinks about money. I know you are keenly aware that people are extremely worried about money and the issues around money.

So here are a few thoughts about talking with your congregation about money.

Preach During Up and Down Giving Seasons

One reason congregations can be resistant to stewardship messages is because they only hear about money “from the front office” when giving is down. Deacon Sad News gets up and says, “someone’s been leaving the lights on, someone’s been taking two cookies, and now we can’t afford to fix the broken window”. If you preach every year, maybe for three or four weeks, you’ll preach in the seasons that are up and down and help your people be more receptive. Your congregation will see that you are shepherding their stewardship life spiritually rather than just trying to meet budget.

Preach Stewardship, Not Just Tithing

I once preached a four-week series on stewardship and only one point, on one Sunday was about tithing. Teach your people how to view their work life as a stewardship of how God has gifted them, and that their work is one of their primary ministries. Teach your people that their wise use of time should be according to God’s purposes for their lives. Teach your young people that praying for their future career is a way to trust Him without anxiety and worry. You see – all of these can be a sermon in a four-week series. And, then you can naturally teach how to grow in gratitude and generosity with your gifts, abilities, and resources.

Don't Preach – If You're Horrible With Money

I care for the church, and I am your friend, and faithful are the wounds of a friend. If you have made a mess of what God has given you to manage financially and have no real view of the future financially – you're in a place of needing help not giving it. Accept God's grace, be Honest and be vulnerable with your people and say, I should let someone else preach in my place on this topic – for now. Find a pastor to share the pulpit with you or find someone in your church that you can interview or preach as a part of your series.

Pastor Rob's Financial Tip

Preaching on money and stewardship is a challenge for many pastors but as you grow in your personal money management you'll have more experience to take into the pulpit with you as you preach. **Here's the tip:** plan your 2022 preaching calendar and pencil in a four-week stewardship series. Choose the dates, even if you're not ready to choose the topics. Then, find the resources to get you ready.