

Emerald Smucker

Handling Money Wisely

There once was a couple named Todd and Tina. They met in college and married. They each had student loans, new car payments, and they also bought a house well beyond their means. They struggled to pay their bills, and they did not have money for giving. There was another couple named John and Mary. They paid their way through college and bought a used car instead of a brand new one. They also bought an affordable home. John and Mary could give more money to their church and save more. One reason that people are in a struggle today is that they do not handle their money wisely. If we do handle our money wisely, we will not have to fear the difficult times. We will have saved our money and stayed out of debt. Like John and Mary, we should learn to spend our money wisely, save our money, and give to God. The following points will help us live a more stress-free life.

My first point is about saving money. To handle money wisely is to save for a “rainy day.” It is wise to put ten percent of your paycheck in a savings account. One reason we should save some of our money is we do not know what the future holds. Another reason we should save is, if we have a large purchase we want to make, we can set aside money for it and pay it with cash, not with credit. If we save money and we have unexpected bills, we can pay them instead of borrowing money. Proverbs 6:6-8 states, “Take a lesson from the ants, you lazy bones. Learn from their ways and be wise! Even though they have no prince, governor, or ruler to make them work, they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter.” This verse states that we should follow the ant’s example and save in the good times so we have enough when difficult times come.

How we spend our money is also important. To handle our money wisely is to have a spending plan. We should live within our means. If we want to make a purchase with a credit card, we should make sure we have enough money in our bank account to pay for it when the bill comes. If we cannot handle spending with a credit card, we should spend with cash. We should not take out loans to pay for big bills. Taking out loans from someone is an easy way to get into debt. Debt is when we owe money to someone. We can spend within a budget, which helps us avoid debt. Proverbs 22:7 states, “Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.” This verse states that if we took out a loan, we would have to work to pay it off instead of having the liberty to do what we want to do. It is important that we spend our money wisely so we do not go into debt. We also need to be generous with our money and give to God.

God owns everything, even our money. In Haggai 2:8 it states, “‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the Lord Almighty.” Since God has blessed us with so much, we should thank Him by giving it back. We should give ten percent or more of our money to our church. We can also give to charities or support Christian schools such as Dayspring Christian Academy. Giving above ten percent is a good idea. Proverbs 3:9-10 states, “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops, then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” This verse means we should honor the Lord by giving to Him and He will take care of us. 2 Corinthians 9:7 also states, “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for

God loves a cheerful giver.” This verse states that we should give out of love with a cheerful heart.

Saving, spending, and giving money wisely will help us live. If we would be like John and Mary, we will not have the pressure of debt. If we spend wisely, we will stay out of debt. If we save money, we will have money for emergencies. If we give money, we please God. Matthew 7:24-25 states, “Anyone who listens to My teaching and follows it is wise. Like a person who builds his house on solid rock, though the rain comes in torrents and the flood waters rise, and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on the bedrock.” We should save our money wisely and stay out of debt and give. It is never too late to get on a budget. God will take care of us if we follow his Word. Then we will be like the wise man on a solid foundation.

Works Cited

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