**Week 4:**

***Set Long Term Goals***

*Key phrase*: Four things to know for setting long term financial goals.

*Scripture*:  Matthew 6:19-34

*VIDEO link*: https://12stone.com/watch/master-your-money/set-long-term-goals/

1. Introduction
   1. Have you ever taken a dare?
      1. PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION: tell a story of a dare you accepted and shouldn’t have taken
         1. Why is it that dares are always dumb? We have been taking a different spin on dares this semester by daring you to do something smart and to master your money
   2. Recap of the 5 biblical principles
      1. Spend less than you earn
      2. Avoid the use of debt
      3. Build margin (save)
      4. Set long term goals
      5. Give generously
   3. No matter where you are on the journey, you can apply these 5 principles to move along on your journey
   4. This week we are returning to setting long term goals and giving generously – it is hard to talk about one without the other
2. Set long term goals
   1. Four things you need to know for setting long term goals
      1. You can’t take it with you, but you can send it on ahead
         1. What do people lose if they decide to skip on the give side? Ron provides insight on this question: VIDEO 16
         2. Matthew 6:19-21, 24
            1. This teaching would have blown people’s minds of the day – the Sadducees were teaching people that there was only this life on earth and nothing after and now Jesus is saying how you live here will affect your eternity

This does NOT mean you can buy or earn your way to heaven – that is a gift of grace

However, how you manage your money gives evidence to whether you believe what you say you believe

When I give, I am making deposits in eternity

This is why Ron said, “How I spend my life now means something for eternity”

In VIDEO 17, Ron goes deeper into this quote

* + - * 1. Are you motivated to have a better eternity than your life on earth?
    1. If you aim at nothing you will hit it every time
       1. Why and how do you advise someone to set long term goals: VIDEO 18
          1. Questions that Ron poses for us:

What are you aiming at in your finances?

Have you involved God in the process?

Asking God, “what would you have me to do,” is what goal setting is all about

* + - 1. As you ask God about your goals, you need to also ask about long term giving goals – think about setting long term giving goals
      2. Your financial world and life are important to God and need to be cultivated and cared for like you do your prayer and devotional life
      3. Setting a giving goal:
         1. The average or slightly above average earner in the United States could give away hundreds of thousands of dollars during their lifetime – if you made $60,000 and tithed over a working life (without any increase in pay) you would give over a quarter of a million dollars away
    1. Long term rewards have no short cuts
       1. Master Your Money page 50: “To create or increase your margin, you only have two choices: increase income or decrease expenses. . . .” [the better option for most people is to reduce expenses] “This is the hard part, because in order to generate enough cash-flow margin each year to meet your long-term objectives, *you have to make the long-term a priority over the short-term*.”
       2. PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION – tell a story of a time you tried to take a short cut and it turned out badly – credit cards are a great example if you have that type of story
       3. Long-term goals reorient you to your priorities
       4. ILLUSTRATION – bring $1,000 in cash (9 $100 bills and 5 $20 bills) as a representation of 1 week of income ($52,000 for a year)
          1. If I give the first 10%, save the second 10%, and live on the rest this is how it lays out [lay out the cash in this way putting the $20s in the save pile]
          2. Now it often happens that I overspend my lifestyle, so I take one of the $20s from the saving pile and put it over into lifestyle. Sometimes (often) I end up putting all of the $20s designated for savings into lifestyle.

When I think about spending $20, I tend to think of it in terms of how much I make ($52,000) and it feels insignificant – 0.04%

However (now pick up the 5 $20s), if I view it as a percentage of my future/savings, that $20 represents 20% of my future

Now when the world starts asking me for $20, it becomes a valuable $20

You have to value each of the dollars you have or you will never find control in your budget

* + - 1. The way to start your financial freedom is to begin making changes today
    1. The certainty of economic uncertainty
       1. In VIDEO 19, Ron answers the question “What advice would you give us as you have watched people live through these principles”
          1. “Don’t fall into the trap of thinking prosperity is the answer, it’s not, it is security in the Lord.” – Ron Blue
          2. God isn’t wringing His hands in worry over the world, the economics, politics, etc. – He has this

God has you and your family and you get to relax and find His peace in the midst of uncertainty

1. Conclusion
   1. Will you take the dare and set long term goals and order your finances in accordance with biblical principles?