



Im As Mad As You | Doug Wekenman | 11.22-23

Weekly Study

SHARE

It's that time of year again for our annual end of the year series Kingdom Builders. This series is all about how we as a church are being challenged to build God's kingdom rather than our own. In this first week Doug taught from the letter of 1 Timothy and talked about what it means to be *"rich in this world"* and still trust God more than money. The heart of the message was not fundraising, but formation, inviting us to become the kind of people that trust God with what he has given us to steward.

We looked at how God has always been a generous Father, how giving was his idea before it was ever a church practice, and how tithing and generosity are really about trust, freedom, and building stories that will outlast us. Doug was honest about how emotional and frustrating money conversations can feel, but also how much freedom comes when your treasure and your heart move toward God.

- ☐ How would you describe your first gut reaction when church and money end up in the same sentence, and why do you think you respond that way?
- ☐ What is one story from your own life where you clearly saw God take care of you financially or practically, and how did that shape your trust in him?

GROW

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

- ☐ **What words or phrases in this passage stand out to you most, and what do you think they reveal about God's heart toward people who "are rich in this world"?**

Paul tells Timothy to teach believers not to be proud and not to trust in money because it is "so unreliable," but to put their trust in God who "richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment." **1 Timothy 6:17-19** paints a picture of wealth that is not evil in itself, but dangerous when it becomes the place we look for security, identity, or joy. We are called to enjoy God's gifts, but not to worship them.

- ☐ **How would you describe the difference between enjoying what God gives you and trusting what God gives you more than you trust God himself?**

Doug reminded us that from Genesis, God has always been the giver first. Creation, provision, and even the idea of "first and best" offerings all flow out of a Father who loves to bless his people. We are made in the image of a generous God, which means we are most ourselves when we live as stewards, not as owners. Tithing is not a tax, it is command for our hearts. It teaches us that everything was God's before it ever hit our bank account.

- ☐ **What have you seen in someone's heart over time if they see themselves mainly as an owner of their money instead of a steward of God's money?**
- ☐ **How does the idea of returning your first and best to God challenge your current approach to budgeting, spending, or saving?**

Doug also talked about the difference between tithing and generosity. The tithe is a starting line, not a finish line. Jesus affirms the tithe, but then calls us into a whole life of generosity. The widow with two coins gave less money, but more heart. The rich young ruler gave more money, but kept his heart. God does not need our money. He wants our heart, and as Matthew 6:21 tells us, our heart always follows our treasure.

- ☐ **When you look at where your money actually goes, what story does it tell about what you value and who or what you trust most?**

MOVE

Read Malachi 3:8-10

God invites his people to "test" him with the tithe and promises to "throw open the floodgates of heaven." That does not mean a guaranteed raise or an easy life, but it does mean God takes

personal responsibility for his generous kids. Doug said, “When you return the first, God redeems the rest.” Generosity becomes less about obligation and more about living in Kingdom freedom, where God carries the worry and we carry the obedience.

- ☐ **What would it look like in real terms for you to test God in this area without trying to control how he blesses you in return?**

Doug gave a simple pathway. **Start somewhere. Do it consistently. Then grow in it.** Maybe that means beginning with a small percentage and committing to it, or maybe it means moving from occasional giving to a true first and best tithe. Over time, the goal is not only to reach ten percent, but to live a whole life of generosity that funds the Gospel, serves people in need, and builds stories long after you are gone.

- ☐ **How could you practically build generosity into your rhythm, so it becomes a planned priority rather than a leftover decision?**
- ☐ **When you think about Kingdom Builders and end of year giving, what story do you hope your generosity will help build in Austin and beyond?**

Doug said our giving is one way we tell God, “I am as mad as you” about the injustice, lostness, and brokenness in the world. We are not content to watch addiction, poverty, and spiritual lostness from the sidelines. We take the Great Commission personally. Generosity becomes a way to push back darkness, fund ministry, and make heaven more crowded.

- ☐ **Where do you feel a holy frustration about the brokenness you see around you, and how might generosity become one way you partner with God in that specific area?**

PRAY

As you close, take time to respond to God, not just to information. This is less about math and more about trust. Invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart, expose fear, uproot greed, and stir up faith to live as a Kingdom Builder.

- Pray that God would show you where money has too strong a grip on your heart, and ask him to lead you into freedom and trust.
- Ask God to give you a specific, faith filled next step in generosity, and to supply both courage and practical wisdom to walk it out.

- Thank Jesus for how he has already provided for you, and ask him to use your life, your story, and your resources to help make heaven more crowded.