

Course #: PM 10308
Spring 2015
Wednesday 1:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.
Instructors: Jay Earheart-Brown/Debra Matthews
Email: jebrown@memphisseminary.edu
dmatthews@memphisseminary.edu

Financial Leadership for Ministry Course Syllabus

Course Description: How will you as a minister develop an approach to both personal and church finances that will reflect your theological convictions? How will you organize your own finances and provide leadership within your church in addressing financial matters? In this course, students seeking a Master of Divinity degree, we will seek to answer those questions by considering biblical and theological resources for developing a theology of finance, along with developing the tools needed for personal financial planning and the management of finances in a church setting.

Course Goals

1. Scholarship: develop a critical understanding of theologies of finance and money and how they draw upon biblical, theological, and cultural resources
2. Piety: develop one's own theological understanding of finances and money and how that understanding can be integrated with personal financial practices and pastoral leadership within the church
3. Justice: gain an understanding of the relationship between personal finances, and church finances within the cultural and institutional dynamics in contemporary society

Required Reading

Craig L. Blomberg, *Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions*, (IVP Academic 2000)

Mary Hunt, *7 Money Rules for Your Life: How to Take Control of Your Financial Future* (Revell Publishing, 2012)

Janet T. and Philip D. Jamieson, *Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors*, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2009)

Luke Timothy Johnson, *Sharing Possessions: What Faith Demands*, (Eerdmans, 2011)

Gil Rendle and Alice Mann, *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*, (Alban, 2003)

Michael Schut, *Money & Faith: The Search for Enough*, (Morehouse Education Resources, 2008.)

Course Plan

Weeks 1-3: Understanding and Managing Personal Finances and Pastor's Compensation

Mary Hunt, *7 Money Rules for Your Life: How to Take Control of Your Financial Future* (Revell Publishing, 2012); Flora Williams, *The Shepherd's Guide through the Valley of Debt and Financial Change: A Comprehensive Manual for Financial Management, Counseling, and Spiritual Guidance*. (Author House, 2009)

Personal Story Assignment Due

Weeks 4- 9: Developing a Biblical and Theological Approach to Money and Faith

Craig L. Bloomberg, *Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions*, (IVP Academic 2000); Michael Schut, *Money & Faith: The Search for Enough*, (Morehouse Education Resources, 2008.); Luke Timothy Johnson, *Sharing Possessions: What Faith Demands*, (Eerdmans, 2011)

Sermon Due

Reflection Papers Due on Blomberg, Schut and Johnson

Weeks 10-13: Integrating Theology and Practice: Church Finances

Rendle and Mann, *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*, (Alban, 2003); Jamieson, *Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors*, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2009)

Interview Due

Reflection Papers due on Rendle/Mann and Jamieson

Final Integrative Paper due

Requirements/Evaluation for Grade

All course papers must be submitted through www.turnitin.com.

Instructions for submitting papers will be provided prior to the assignment's due date.

1. **Attendance and participation in class sessions.** Per MTS policy, failure to attend 1/3 or more of the course sessions will result in a failing grade for the course.
2. **Reflection papers on the readings:** for each assigned reading, students are required to prepare a two to three page reflection paper. These are due in the class for which the reading is assigned (see class schedule). Students are to critically engage with the reading in these papers. Students may wish to respond such questions as: How does this reading affect my perception of money in relation to my personal life, the life of the church, or the broader culture? What do I find difficult or challenging in this reading for my own theology and/or practice in relation to money? What help does this reading give for developing my own theology of money or for developing leadership within ministry in relation to finances?
3. **Personal Story:** Each student will prepare a personal story which shares an experience with the management of their finances and how the experience challenged or helped their approach to money. The story will be shared in the classroom setting.
4. **Interview Paper:** Each student will interview a person in their congregation regarding money, Christian life and the church. The person's approach to money and experience with money in relation to the Christian life is to be considered in relation to themes raised in course readings and discussions. (5-6 pages)

5. **Sermon:** Each student will write a sermon reflecting on the role of finance/money within the Christian life. This sermon could address one of the following concerns: management of personal finances, a biblical understanding of tithes and offering, passionate generosity, poverty and wealth, wealth management, Christian economics, faith and possessions, The sermon topic should be developed in consultation with the course instructors. (7-9 pages)
6. **Final Integrative Paper:** Each student will write a final integrative paper that develops a theological integration of one’s approach to personal finances and a leadership approach to integrating theology and practice of money and faith in the. This paper must discuss at least two specific practices that would embody one’s theological approach. (10-12 pages)

GRADES

The final grade will be determined based on the following percentages:

1. Attendance and class participation	5%
2. Reflection Papers (each paper worth 5 points)	25%
3. Personal Story	15%
4. Interview Paper	15%
5. Sermon	15%
6. Final Integrative Paper	25%
7. Grading Scale	
A	94 – 100
B	86 – 93
C	75 – 85
D	66 – 74
F	65 and under

A STATEMENT OF RESPECT

Because of the diversity among our students (race, gender, age, culture, experience and theological position), we have an opportunity in this institution to bear witness to our relationship with God who “so loves the world” by the way we relate to one another. Toward this end, we are encouraged to respect ourselves and each other as a value we practice within the classroom. Specifically, classmates should listen with care to one another, not allow personal agendas to dominate class time, refrain from using masculine language when referring to all people (use “humanity” rather than “man,” etc.), and describe God with a wide variety of images.

This seminary’s policy on Academic Misconduct (plagiarism and other forms of cheating) will be strictly observed. Students are urged to respect the dignity of each other by observing the Sexual Misconduct/Harassment policy.

Class Schedule:

	<u>Class Discussion</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
January 28, 2015	Intro Class	7 Money Rules	Dr. Jay & Dr. Debra
February 4, 2015	Financial Management Personal Finances/Debt Management	Personal Story Due 7 Money Rules	Dr. Jay
February 11, 2015	Pastor's Compensation and Benefits	Case Study	Dr. Debra Presenter Rev. Mark Hester
February 18, 2015	Neither Poverty Nor Riches (Blomberg)		Dr. Jay
February 25, 2015	Neither Poverty Nor Riches (cont.)	Reflection Paper Due	Dr. Debra
March 4, 2015	Sharing Possessions: What Faith Demands		Dr. Jay
March 11, 2015	Sharing Possessions (cont.)	Reflection Paper Due	Dr. Debra
March 18, 2015	Money & Faith: The Search for Enough		Dr. Jay
March 25, 2015	Money & Faith	Reflection Paper Due	Presenters Pete Gathje Billy Vaughn
April 1, 2015	Holy Week		
April 8, 2015	Holy Conversations	Sermon Due	Dr. Debra
April 15, 2015	Managing the Finances of the Church/Strategic Planning/Church Budgets	Holy Conversations Reflection Paper Due	Dr. Jay
April 22, 2015	Ministry and Money	Interview Due	Dr. Debra Presenters Phil & Janet Jamieson
April 29, 2015	Stewardship, Tithing Fundraising, Radical Generosity	Ministry and Money Reflection Paper Due	Dr. Jay
May 6, 2015	Reading Week		
May 13, 2015	Finals Due		
May 28, 2015	Grades Due		