



# Declutter.

January 21 & 22

## Create Margin in My Budget

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### Introduction

Over the last two weeks we have been looking at things that clutter our lives. We've discussed how unsettled issues in our souls can create clutter and how clutter in our schedules keep us from using our time for God. This week, Pastor John looked at how our finances are cluttered.

### Discussion

1. **Read Matthew 6:19-24.** Why do you think Jesus talked more about money than He did about things like faith and love? What do you think Jesus meant in verse 24?
2. **Read Luke 3:7-14 and Luke 19:1-10.** What are some money management principles found in these two texts?
3. **Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-18.** How would you personally describe contentment? How does Paul describe it? How does one obtain contentment?
4. Like food, we all need money to exist in our society. What are some practical things we can do so money doesn't rule our lives? Name some ways we can control our impulses for money so it doesn't ruin our relationship with God, others and our own souls.

### Think About It

A man grew up on a farm in central Iowa. When he was a boy, his mother always brought out a lunch and a sweet, cold drink such as lemonade while he was baling hay or straw. No matter how much of the liquid he consumed, he found he was still thirsty until he took a few swallows of cold water at the end of his lunch. Money, material possessions and fame are much like the sweet cold drink. They never completely satisfy our souls and spirits. Only a close walk with Jesus, our Living Water, can bring us true contentment.

### Do Something

1. Look at your current spending patterns. What would you consider "necessities"? What are some "luxuries" or "extras" in your spending? Prayerfully consider sharing this information with a trusted friend or family member to see how your perception of "necessities" and "extras" match up. How does this change your perspective on your spending?
2. If you do not have a budget, now is the time to create one! If you already have a budget, check to make sure it reflects your current income/spending patterns. If you need help creating a budget, attend a Financial Peace University class or check out online budget creators.
3. Pray over your finances. Does it control you? What steps do you need to take this week to find true contentment in your use of money?