

"CREATING A NEW LINE ITEM"

Balanced: Gaining & Maintaining Financial Stability , Part 4

November 8th, 2009

All of our extra money either gets consumed or saved so we can consume it later

Usually the only time we feel we have extra is when we are around people who have a lot less than we do

Our culture gets us laser-focused on what we don't have, and because there's so much we don't have we assume since we don't have what we think we ought to have, we don't have any extra

Most of us had, have, or will have extra

What you choose to do with your extra is a: reflection of your heart
reflection of where you stand in relationship to God
indication as to who or what controls my heart

Dealing With Your Extra

Luke 12:15 (NIV) "Then Jesus said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.'"

If we live in such a way that we either consume or save what we have to consume later, we run the risk in a practical way of living as if your life consisted in the abundance of your possessions

Jesus teaches, you can tell if you are living that way by keeping your eye on what you do with your extra stuff

Luke 12:16-19 (NIV) "And Jesus told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

Luke 12:20 (NIV) "But God said to him, "You fool!"

Some churches teach if you have a lot of stuff, God's blessed you; if you're in poverty, you just need to have more faith – that's NOT in the Bible & it doesn't work

Jesus doesn't call the man a fool because he's rich; He calls him a fool because he doesn't understand why he has so much extra. He thought it was all for him

Luke 12:20 (NIV) "This very night your life will be demanded from you."

Most of us in America will run out of time before we run out of money

Luke 12:20 (NIV) "Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"

Who will get his stuff? Someone else. He didn't give it, he left it

Luke 12:21 (NIV) "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Jesus is not teaching against preparing for the future financially

There is an adjustment, a correction, that we need to make in our thinking and the way that we manage our money

Luke 12:33-34 (NIV) "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

In God's economy when I take some of ^{my} extra and give to those who are in need, that's treasure in heaven – that's being rich toward God

If you are living as if "it's all for you," you are out of balance & need to make a correction

For a majority of Americans the reason they don't think they have any extra is because they believe all they have is absolutely necessary for their personal consumption or they can't make it

Assignment: Total up the amount you gave to charitable causes. Most think they are more generous than they really are. The average American gives away about 2 %. Figure out what percentage you give away from what you make.

Correction Challenge: Don't set a dollar amount but a pre-decided percentage amount of your income you want to give away this year

Pre-decide to be rich toward God, not just rich toward yourself

When you begin to give to those in need, something happens in your heart - you have more peace & less anxiety

Your Heavenly Father is going to take care of you. Stop living as if it's all up to you

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will calculate what percentage of my income I give away
- I will set a pre-determined percentage to give away this year
- I will memorize Luke 12:15
- I plan to attend to the "Meet the Pastors" lunch on Sun, Nov 15th at noon