

“FLASHBACK”

Lost, Part 3

October 10th, 2010

“Lost” financially means you don’t know where your money goes, not sure if you are saving enough, wonder why you feel so much pressure although you have more than ever before

The opposite of “lost” financially isn’t “found”; it’s knowing where you are and how to get to where you want and need to be

You can’t be a fully devoted follower of Christ and lost in your world of personal finance because Christ said too much about money

When you decide to follow Christ, you must allow Him to deal with your money

Key question we must ask ourselves: “Why do I have so much?”

If your lifestyle continues to chase your income, no matter how much you make/have, you’ll continue to feel pressure

Our culture doesn’t want us to ask, “Why do I have so much?” Instead, our culture wants us to ask, “Why don’t I have more?”

Our culture says focus on what you don’t have but could have

When your lifestyle continually chases your income, you will create an artificial sense of need – what began as a want became a need

Luke 12:13-15 (NIV) “Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’ Jesus replied, ‘Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?’ Then He 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.’”

It is hard to see greed in our lives, but it’s easy to see it in the lives of others

Luke 12:16-17 (NIV) “And He 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.’”

We assume when I have extra, it’s for me

Luke 12:18-19 (NIV) “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.’”

Fatal flaw to think – Since I have “x” number of years stuff, I must have “x” number of years of life

This man’s problem wasn’t that he was rich; it was he didn’t know why he was rich

Luke 12:20 (NIV) “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’”

Somebody else will get all he owned, not because he was generous or made a decision in advance – but because he was dead

The rich farmer made two wrong assumptions:

1. He assumed he was the source of all his extra
2. He assumed his extra was for him

Luke 12:21 (NIV) “[Jesus said] ‘This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.’”

Luke 12:33 (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.”

To be “rich toward God” means when I am blessed with more than I need, I share it with those in need

We need to take our extra & put it in things that most interest God

This man lost all he had in this world and had nothing to show for it in the world to come

Jesus said when we take our extra & place it in places that are important to God that somehow that’s accredited to our heavenly account

When I’m blessed with more than I need, it’s for the sake of someone in need – it’s not about me

When we begin to think this way and stop letting our lifestyle chase our income, it changes everything

This is not about a prayer we pray – it’s an action we take

Give, save, live on the rest

God wants us to be rich toward Him because He’s been rich toward us

When you become a percentage, priority giver, you don’t feel guilty anymore

At whatever level you are at, whether you have a lot or a little, begin to share now

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will allow God to deal with me in the area of my finances
- I will begin to share now
- I will memorize Luke 12:33