

**RESCUED**  
**Lost, Part 5**  
October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

You can't remain financially lost and wholeheartedly follow Christ

Jesus said more about money than any single topic, yet He never asked for any

Jesus believes our money and hearts are linked

God is most interested – not in your money – but in your heart

Proverbs 28:26 (NIV) “He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.”

We need to learn to walk in wisdom by asking, “What is the wise thing to do in this situation?”

Scripture teaches the person who pays no attention to wise counsel, but does what he/she wants to do is foolish

Why would we take our financial cues from a culture that wants a lot from us but doesn't necessarily want anything for us?

Your Heavenly Father wants something for you; He doesn't need anything from you

**4 Financial Decisions To Avoid Being “Lost” Financially**

**1. Choose a percentage of your income on which to live, & then live on it**

It is far better for you to pick a percentage of your income you want to live on instead of letting our culture and greed drive you to an unhealthy percentage to live on

It's more fun to choose what I will not own than to own what I can't afford

The difference in the gap between your income & lifestyle is called margin & peace

When your financial margin disappears, \_\_\_\_\_ goes up & your \_\_\_\_\_ goes away

**2. Track your spending**

Proverbs 27:23,24 (LB) “Riches can disappear fast. And the king's crown doesn't stay in his family forever – so watch your business interests closely. Know the state of your flocks and your herds.”

The more you have, the more important it is to track your money because the more you have the more inclined you are to waste your money

It's not yours anyway – it belongs to God & you are managing it for Him  
If you have to make adjustments, it's usually not easy but the process is easier

### 3. Get rid of dumb debt

Get rid of debt on assets which are not appreciating in value

Proverbs 22:7 (NAS) "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave."

You are just an account number in a company's computer that wants something from you, not something for you

Going public with your debt may be embarrassing at first, but you'll be very happy at the end

Being "private" initially helped get you into the mess you're in now

### 4. Give first, save second, & live on the rest

If you fund God's Kingdom first, save & fund your future second, and live on the rest, you won't go broke

When you live this way, you align yourself with God's values & give an invitation for God to get involved in the realm of your personal finances

Generosity first does two things: 1. breaks the power of greed in your life  
2. bridles your discontentment

Our culture says, spend first, if anything is left over try to save it, I wish I could give more, but I didn't have any money

You don't know what God has in store for you; you must be ready

You can learn God's wisdom from the Bible or the hard way in life

We don't apply these simple principles because we lack knowledge; we don't apply them because we lack self-discipline

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

God's Spirit can give you the power & motivation to follow through and do what God has called you to do

#### My Next Step Today Is...

- Of the 4 financial steps God is impressing me to do \_\_\_#1; \_\_\_#2; \_\_\_#3; \_\_\_#4
- I will attend Class 101-Introduction to Life at New Hope on Sun, Oct 31 @ 1 pm w/Pastor Russ
- I/we/my family will participate in Faith in Action on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 pm