

# CRISIS, WHAT CRISIS? Doing Money God's Way

## Part 1 – My Way, Their Way or God's Way

- *How are you feeling about the current financial 'crisis'?*
- *How do you feel when the preacher announces he's going to be speaking about money?*
- *Would you say you had a good grasp of what the Bible teaches about finances?*

### **3 UNWORLDLY FACTS ABOUT MONEY**

#### **1. Contrary to popular belief, having more STUFF is no guarantee of HAPPINESS (Luke 12:15)**

What messages are the 'world' sending us?

- a) Money is simply to be CONSUMED and the MORE you HAVE the BETTER.
- b) Money is the KEY to HAPPINESS, and if you only had MORE you would indeed be HAPPY.
- c) The more, brighter, shinier, newer STUFF you have, more IMPRESSED people will be.
- d) GET as much as you can, SPEND as much as you can & SAVE as much as you can.

→ *What is your relationship between money and happiness? What should it be? How do you feel when you have plenty? How do you feel when you are squeezed? Why do you feel the way you do?*

→ *What did Jesus say about the connection between the way you treat your money and the state of your heart?*

→ *What are the flaws in the 'consumption assumption?' (i.e. that all your money belongs to you and is designed to be spent to make your life better)*

→ *What is the spirit of the world's agenda for your money? What is the enemy's / yours / God's agenda for your money?*

#### **2. Money makes a wonderful SERVANT, but a terrible MASTER**

Story of the Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19:16-24)

- \* The problem was not that he HAD MONEY, but that money HAD HIM.
- \* He was a SLAVE to it. He SERVED it and it CONTROLLED him.
- \* Ultimately it was his GOD and, for him, it was IDOLATRY.

→ *How can money become someone's idol? What are the symptoms? How do you get to that point? How do you escape?*

The other person who is a SLAVE to money is the one in DEBT (Prov 22:7)

- \* Again, you don't HAVE MONEY, it HAS YOU ... and it's a terrible, merciless MASTER.

→ *Why is debt so dangerous? How does it make you a slave? How do you get out if you're in it? How do you stay out if you're not?*

#### **3. Financial peace comes, not from the AMOUNT you have, but from being a GOOD & FAITHFUL STEWARD**

THE PRINCIPLE: When it comes to our money, anything actually, we're not OWNERS, we're MANAGERS.

- \* It ALL belongs to GOD. We just have RESPONSIBILITY for it TEMPORARILY. Our role is one of STEWARDSHIP.

OT STORY: 1 Chronicles 29:1-16

- \* It's not YOUR STUFF; it's GOD'S (Psalm 24:1, 50:10,11, Haggai 2:8)

NT PARABLE of the TALENTS: Matthew 25:14-30

- \* Our job is to be GOOD and FAITHFUL with what we've been given, because God is the OWNER and we are ACCOUNTABLE STEWARDS.
- \* GOOD relates to SOUND financial decisions, WISE & BIBLICAL stewardship.
- \* FAITHFUL means being MINDFUL you're a manager and that your job is to be OBEDIENT & DEFERENTIAL to the Master.
- \* When you're a manager, you make DIFFERENT decisions, based on a different set of PRINCIPLES & PRIORITIES.

→ *Why does this change of mindset produce a different attitude to money, make different decisions and set different objectives? What worldly attitudes does it kill or problems solve?*

→ *What does it mean to be a good and faithful steward? What does 'good' mean? What does 'faithful' mean?*

**THE POINT:** Romans 12:2

Maybe we've been LOOKING at this ALL WRONG.

- \* Just because the world is PUSHING you in a certain direction, doesn't mean it's a SMART PLAN.
- \* Shouldn't we go back to the BIBLE with prayerful heart + say, 'Lord, how do YOU want me to MANAGE my finances?'

→ *To what extent have you personally bought into the world's way of doing money? How does Romans 12:2 apply here? Do you believe there might be another, different, better way? And, if so, what is it?*

### **RESPONSE**

1. *Have you been suckered into becoming materialistic, maybe even a little greedy? If so, of what do you need to repent?*
2. *If you're honest, do you have money or does money have you?*
3. *What changes could you make today to start to think like a manager, rather than owner?*