

January 18, 2012

Money Matters: Smart Money

- SERIES: Money Matters
 - 2 Weeks Ago: The Value of You
 - Last Week: Materialism—The Dream Killing Dream
 - Tonight: Smart Money

- Last week, we talked about how our society's fascination with materialism has led so many people to chase after a dream, only to have that dream killed because of CREDIT DEBT.
 - When we go after things we can't afford, we get ourselves into greater trouble than we could know.
 - ◇ While this is a financial topic, it also is a spiritual one.
 - When financial matters are weighing on you, it takes your spirit and crushes it.
 - Your walk with God then suffers.

- Tonight, we're going to talk about more ways of dealing with money matters and how to be smart with your money.
 - Why?
- PROVERBS 1:7
 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

 - Christians don't have to be rich to be good Christians. That's a HORRIBLE idea that maybe some people have.
 - ◇ But, a sign of a follower of Christ is someone who fears God, which leads to knowledge and wisdom.
 - ◇ A fool despises that wisdom and is UNDISCIPLINED.
 - Therefore, a follower of Christ should not be undisciplined, but rather disciplined.
 - He or she should work hard to not only be disciplined in spiritual matters, but also in their financial matters.
 - In the sense of being disciplined, financial matters are a spiritual matter.
 - ◆ AND, AS WE'LL SEE NEXT WEEK, GOD WANTS US TO BE AS GOOD WITH OUR MONEY AS WE CAN BE SO THAT WE CAN BE AS MUCH OF A BLESSING TO OTHERS AND TO HIS KINGDOM

WITH OUR MONEY AS WE CAN BE!

- In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the parable of the Talents...
 - 5 / 2 / 1 Talent to three men
 - First two doubled
 - Last buried it.
- MATTHEW 25:25-27
 - I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' **26** "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? **27** Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

 - This parable isn't simply a story about money—but it is a story about disciplining ourselves to make the most that we can with the things that God blesses us with.
 - ◇ Part of that is about being SMART with our MONEY.
 - Too many people, even great Christ followers, are stupid and careless with money, and it hurts their families, themselves, and other people whom they aren't then able to bless.

- Then, there's this story in the Bible about Joseph!
- GENESIS 41:46-57
 - Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt. **47** During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. **48** Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. **49** Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure. ... **53** The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, **54** and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. **55** When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you." **56** When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe

throughout Egypt. **57** And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world.

- Do you think that Joseph was obedient to God by saving up “huge quantities of grain”?
 - ◇ There are many principles to see here in regards to how you are to take care of your valuable treasure.
 - If there’s one thing that I could get you to walk away with tonight, and I’ll be a happy camper and you’ll be better set for a life of less stress and more opportunity to bless, it is this:
 - **LEARN THE VALUE OF SAVING MONEY!**

- **THERE ARE 2 TYPES OF MONEY SAVINGS THAT WILL DRAMATICALLY CHANGE YOUR LIFE IF YOU GET IT NOW AT A YOUNG AGE, AND IT WILL BENEFIT YOU TO THE DAY YOU DIE!**
 - Saving up a “Rainy Day Fund”
 - Starting a habit of **LONG-TERM** savings at a young age

- **The “RAINY DAY FUND”**
 - What Joseph did in Genesis 41 is **THEE DEFINITION** of a “Rainy Day Fund”
 - ◇ A “Rainy Day Fund” is an **EMERGENCY FINANCIAL PLAN**
 - Right now, most of your emergency financial plans are probably spelled “**P-A-R-E-N-T-S**”
 - But, let’s say that your parents couldn’t help you, and your car needed a new tire because you blew out your old one...**WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**
 - You know what most people would do—they’d get out Mr. Visa Credit Card with 30% interest.

 - ◇ What, exactly, was Joseph’s emergency, and how did he plan for it?
 - 7 year drought (after 7 years of famine)
 - He saved up in those 7 years
 - Why do you think most NFL players go bankrupt shortly after their playing careers
 - ◆ Instead of saving—they spend all that they bring in.
 - **MOST PEOPLE SPEND WHAT THEY MAKE (AND IN FACT EVEN MORE THAN THEY MAKE) AND HAVE**

NOTHING LEFT OVER TO SAVE

- ◆ Therefore, they have nothing for a “Rainy Day”—they have nothing in case of an emergency.

- ◇ Imagine being in college, and you’ve got nothing in your checking or savings account, and something goes wrong with your car.
 - How nice would it be to have a \$1,000 emergency “rainy day” fund to draw from?
 - It would keep you from getting into credit cards that you may never get out of!

- ◇ Dave Ramsey suggests having people start with a \$1,000 emergency fund **THAT IS NOT SPENT EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.**
 - After that, he even talks about a 3-6 month fund that would get you along for that amount of time in case of a job loss or something.
 - Crystal and I have worked hard over the past 10 years of marriage to build ourselves a large emergency fund
 - I’m most comfortable when it’s around \$15,000-20,000.
 - ◆ It keeps us from the financial stress that so many people have, and we don’t go into credit card debt.
 - ◆ Now, we do have some student loan debt, but we have a plan to get that done within about 2-3 years hopefully, and only have a house debt.
 - **I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THIS KIND OF FINANCIAL PLANNING AND DISCIPLINE HELPS US HAVE A BETTER MARRIAGE, AND A BETTER MARRIAGE HELPS OUR KIDS HAVE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT TO GROW UP IN, AND THAT HELPS US TO BE BETTER IN EVERY WAY—SPIRITUALLY, PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY, AND, OF COURSE, FINANCIALLY.**
 - Even now, having a “rainy day” fund will help you develop discipline and keep you from having to worry about little things coming up and not having any way of paying for them
 - ◆ Discipline: Can you be disciplined enough to save it and not spend it; and, when it is saved, can you remain disciplined to understand what is actually an emergency and what is not
 - ⊗ Like—it is NOT an emergency that you need to get an

iPhone or iPad

- ⊗ It IS an emergency when you're car's brakes no longer work and you can't stop your car
- A "rainy day" fund is good on so many levels!

➤ Then there's the 2nd kind of savings...Long-Term Savings

• VIDEO

- ◇ Isn't it amazing to see what a little bit of savings early in life can do for you?
- ◇ Too many young people don't plan for their future—they only live in the present.
 - Guess what—do you know that there is a good chance that you and your peers will have NO SOCIAL SECURITY to fall back on when you hit retirement age?!!
 - You better not count on the government to take care of you—because they're barely taking care of anything these days.

➤ DISCIPLINE IS KEY TO THE WHOLE IDEA OF SAVINGS...

- One way to build your savings, especially if you don't have much self-discipline right now, is to use an envelope system, which allows you to use cash-only for purchases. (BRIEFLY EXPLAIN)
 - ◇ Did you know that people spend 12% more when they pay with credit cards than with cash?
 - **Why do you think credit cards cause more impulsive spending?**
 - **Is it easier to buy something for \$50 with a \$50 bill or with a credit card?**
 - **Why or why not?**

➤ THE BIG 5—5 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER TO INCREASE YOUR SAVINGS AND TO CURB IMPULSIVE SPENDING

- You've got \$1,000
 - ◇ There's 5 BIG TICKET items
 - iPad / New Wardrobe / (Very) Used Car / TV for your room / Other
- 1) Would you buy this product tomorrow if you were to wait overnight and had time to think about it? Would this give you a chance to calm down and get over the "gotta-have-it-now" stage?
- 2) Is this item a need or a want? Needs: food, clothing,

- transportation, shelter. Stuff can only buy short-term happiness—joy has to come from within.
- 3) Do you understand the item?
 - 4) Is there a better use for your money? If you spend the money on this, you can't spend it on anything else. Would it be better to save the money for the future? REMEMBER, time is your best friend when it comes to saving and building wealth.
 - 5) Have you asked anyone that you trust what their opinion is about buying this item? Do they think it's a good idea to buy this item?
- Being disciplined with our money is difficult and not always the most fun.
- But, it's so important, especially for becoming disciplined in other areas of life.
 - ◊ Typically, those who are disciplined to save also prove to be disciplined in other areas of life; those who don't save are often not very disciplined elsewhere in life.
 - Being a good steward of what you have, even the little that you have, will reap benefits beyond anything you would have imagined.
 - Do you want to live a life constantly in worry about financial matters, letting affect you in every area, including your spiritual life?
 - Or do you want to feel financially unburdened?
 - ◊ The easiest way to feel freedom in this area is learning the discipline of saving.
 - And as you learn that discipline, it will grow you in the art of being disciplined in other areas of your life as well.
- PRAY
- 1) I want to begin being disciplined to start saving, even now
 - 2) I know I'm not very disciplined in other areas of my life, and I'm asking God to help me become more disciplined.