

“Financially Free”

February 19, 2017

Many people **desire to be generous**—yet their **financial situation prohibits them**. Proverbs 22:7- *“The borrower is **slave** to the lender.”* We can become **enslaved to debt**. Yet, **we can be FREE!**

CORE: HS is teaching us a strategy to be debt-free!

- **Teaching us how to manage our lives**
- **Helping us change the way we invest our lives & spend our time/money**

LUKE 15

- Jesus is asked, **“Why do you spend time with sinners?”**
- His answer: My Father cares about individuals—**going after “the one”** (i.e., sheep or coin—which we have no idea why they got “lost”)
- Yet, we do learn **WHY the YOUNGEST SON was “LOST.”**

1. Started with IMPATIENT

- He was ready for his dad to die
- He wanted what he wanted NOW
- Yet, he was UNPREPARED to MANAGE it wisely
- IMPATIENCE is a spiritual problem—PATIENCE is a powerful sign of the HS
- **1 Tim. 6:10- “The LOVE of money is the root of all kinds of evil.”**
 - We “Love” money when we love what it can DO for us
 - He “bought” friends—who abandoned him when the money was gone
 - **“Evil”? Looking to something/someone else to be to us—what only God can be!**

2. He was IMPULSIVE

- He WASTED IT [He didn’t SAVE it or TITHE on it]
- He was not GRATEFUL or HONORING or DISCIPLINED
- **ASK HS to help us DISCERN THE SPIRITS that AFFECT OUR FEELINGS** (i.e., *so affected by Madison Ave—we buy based on feelings rather than need*)

3. He was IMMATURE

- **Impatience—Impulsiveness—and Immaturity are the root issues**
- **MORE MONEY is not the solution** (i.e., *70% of lottery winners bankrupt*)
- **He didn’t need more money—He needed to experience HIS FATHER’S LOVE**

HERE’S WHAT HE DID:

1. HE “SAW HIMSELF” (as he really was)

- Freedom from BONDAGE begins with BEING TRUTHFUL—facing where we really are
- WHEN WE LIVE ON CREDIT...
 - We borrow money, falsely treating it as INCOME
 - We can easily LOSE TRACK OF SPENDING
 - We can live in ILLUSION (*until we pay for IT—we don't HAVE IT—the credit card company HAS US!*)
- Ask HS to help you to STOP and take a look at your SPENDING
- Ask: “Have I lost the will to say “NO” to the OFFERS & OPPORTUNITIES (*i.e., spending w/o thinking*)”

2. HE “SPOKE TO HIMSELF”

- The move from VICTIM to VICTOR starts with TAKING RESPONSIBILITY
- Moving from “wishful” to “WILL-FULL” (*i.e., “We've been too long on this mountain” ended the wilderness wanderings of Israel*)

3. HE RETURNED TO HIS FATHER'S HOUSE (and his Father's ways)

- Building an INHERITANCE
- Learning to do MORE with LITTLE
- The world's culture (*i.e., “Indulge yourself”*) is contrary to Kingdom culture (*i.e., “Deny yourself. Lay down your life. Take up your cross and follow Me.”*)
- What we have received from TRUE spiritual fathers/mothers came from those who believed that “only what's done for Christ will last”—who were willing to sacrifice for the Kingdom
- REFUSE SELFISH PROSPERITY SYSTEMS—that equate SPIRITUALITY with POSSESSIONS
 - “Give to Get” schemes miss the heart of our Generous Father
 - Biblical Prosperity:
 - My NEEDS are met
 - I'm out of DEBT
 - And giving is something I GET to do