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2 Questions

- What do you do when everything you trusted in collapses?
- How do you prepare for sudden change in life?
- How do you recover when life hits you on your blind side?
- What do you do when a lifelong dream and investment is suddenly taken from you through no fault of your own?
- What do you say to your family when you face the reality that you may no longer be able to fulfill their expectations for security, support, and provision?

3 Questions

- All the previous questions had one thing in common.
- They were from people who had fallen on difficult times in their lives.
- Though each situation was different, one common factor linked them all: every trying situation was initiated by what we call a crisis.

4 What is a Crisis?

- An Event that:
 - you have no control,
 - you did not anticipate or prepare for,
 - takes you by surprise,
 - fills you with anxiety.
- They produce:
 - Fear
 - Trauma
 - Depression
 - Worry
 - Hopelessness
- Create the following states of mind:
 - A sense of abandonment
 - A sense of loss
 - A sense of death
 - An urgency for survival

5 Questions

- Living on the earth requires that we must expect the unexpected and prepare for the unforeseen.
- However, not everyone possesses the necessary mental, emotional, psychological, and spiritual tools to successfully and effectively deal with a crisis.

6 World in a Crisis?

- Unrestrained Spending is catching up with the world . . .
- Several European Countries are on the verge of bankruptcy.
- Current US National debt is now over \$13 trillion and in the next few years it will be more than our total GNP.
- Economist Arthur Laffer predicts an economic train wreck for America in 2011 due to Obama's policies: "Train Wreck Ahead."

7 Consequences

- As the world's economies are imploding, fear is exploding.
- When consumers and investors lose confidence in the system, they stop participating in it.
- When buyers stop buying, the sellers have to stop manufacturing.
- Incomes dwindle, people lose their jobs, and there are major changes to everyone's lifestyle.

8 Purpose

- The purpose of tonight's sermon is not to scare everyone or bemoan the wretched state of the world.
- It is to give practical and spiritual advice that you can use and take to the bank.
- That number one bit of advice to know is:
 - The Kingdom of God is never in Crisis.
 - When you need to overcome a crisis, it is time to look to the Overcomer.
 - The King of the Kingdom is bigger than any crisis that has ever happened, will ever happen, or is happening right now.
 - He knows what to do!

9 Promise

- "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32)
- "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables," (Luke 8:10 NIV)
- "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven . . ." (Matthew 16:19)
- Keys as principles that unlock the activity of God's Kingdom.

10 What are Keys

- Keys are principles that represent:
 - authority
 - access
 - ownership
 - authorization

- power
- freedom
- What is a principle?
 - a basic truth that predicts outcomes
 - can be general or specific
 - will happen if not countered by other principles

11 Characteristics of Keys

- Keys are . . .
 - Reliable standards that never change.
 - Activate function
 - Initiate action
 - Blueprint on how the kingdom of God operates.
- Keys cannot be substituted by:
 - Feelings,
 - Emotions,
 - Wishful thinking, or
 - Manipulation.

12 The Keys

- The Key of Giving.
- The Key of Forgiveness.
- The Key of Use.
- The Key of Perseverance.
- The Key of Greatness.
- The Key of “Jesus Name.”
- The Key of Management.

13 The Key of Management

- The reason why the world is facing an economic crisis is because of mis-management brought on by greed.
- The only way out of the trouble we are in is through righteous and wise management, through God.
- Management is the effective, efficient, correct, and timely use of another person’s property and resources for the purpose for which they were delegated with a view to producing the expected added value.

14 The Key of Management

- To understand this key, we must understand that we own nothing.
 - Not our homes.
 - Not our cars.

- Money in the bank or investments.
- Even our jobs.
- Instead, everything has been given to us as a trust.
- We are all managers of what God has given us.

15 Taking Care of Resources

- When you keep coming to work late, you can lose your job.
- When you keep eating too much fat, you can lose your health.
- When you do not cultivate your friendships, they can die.
- If you do not keep on putting affection and respect into your marriage, it falls apart.
- What you mismanage, you start losing.
- What you manage properly, you protect.

16 Oil for the Lock

- Discipline and diligence is the lubricant that helps the key of management to work.
- We cannot be effective, efficient, correct, timely, and beneficial to others if we are not faithful and show consistent effort.
- God will not give us a better job, if we haven't been a good employee.

17 The Key of Management

18 Ready for Anything

- The bottom line is this: effective management is what will determine the amount of our resources.
- If we are a good manager and we obey God's principles, it will not matter what kind of crisis comes our way; we will be ready.
- Overcoming crisis depends on good management, and good management is the same as godly stewardship.

19 Managing a Crisis

- Determine your needs.
- Acquire only what you need and limit your wants.
- Do not live beyond your ability.
- Withdraw the unnecessary.
- Delay major projects.
- Value your possessions.
- Save, conserve, and protect your resources.

20 Overcomers

- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? [In other words, every crisis known to the world]

- As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things [crisis] we are more than conquerors [overcomers] through him who loved us.
- For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the [unconquerable, ever-present] love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35–39 NIV)

21 Conclusion

- So, how can we thrive during challenging times?
- Reaping the fruit that was sown in God’s Kingdom.
- Therefore, seek first God’s kingdom and all your needs will be taken care of . . . (Matthew 6:33)