

1  . . . And Jesus said unto them,

2 Budget Thoughts

- If we cut out the following items from our family budget, we will annually save . . .
 - Food – \$6,372.00
 - Mortgage/Rent – \$16,895.00
 - New Clothes – \$1,500.00
 - Car – \$2,000.00
 - Insurance Payments – \$9,000.00
- Total Savings – \$43,000.00

3 Budget Thoughts

- However, budgeting isn't that easy.
- We can't cut everything down to bare bones because there are things in life we need in order to survive.
- According to the Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
 - The average household in America earns \$62,857 before taxes and spends \$49,067.
 - So, if our needs total \$43,000, we can't have everything we want . . .

4 Trick Question

- However, our obligations are not limited to just our needs and wants.
- In fact, Jesus used a coin to indirectly answer this question. (Matt 22:15-21)
- When the Pharisees sought to trap Jesus by getting him into trouble with the Roman authorities, they asked him a question about taxes.
- At this Jesus said to them, "Show Me the Money."
- Well, actually he said, "Show Me the Coin."

5 The First National Coin

- The first national coin was minted in 1776, fully authorized by the Continental Congress.
- Benjamin Franklin provided the basic design for this pewter dollar, inscribed with the word fugio — Latin for "I fly."

- This word was paired with an image of a sundial, to depict how “time flies.”

6 The Pewter Dollar

7 Benjamin Franklin Quotes

- Money can help you to get medicines but not health.
- Money can help you to get soft pillows, but not sound sleep.
- Money can help you to get material comforts, but not eternal bliss.
- Money can help you to get ornaments, but not beauty.
- Money will help you to get an earphone (Continental iPod), but not natural hearing.
- Attain the supreme wealth, wisdom, and you will have everything.

8

9 The Problem

- If we are running a deficit in both the public and private sectors, we are creating for ourselves a huge problem.
- The only way something like this could ever happen is that our wants have taken priority over our needs.
- Pretty soon, if this problem is not corrected, we won't have to worry about our wants any more as our debt needs will take precedent over everything.

10 Priorities

- When Jesus was asked about paying taxes, what did he say? (Matt 22:15-21)
- Pay those of whom you have obligations.
 - Caesar (The government)
 - God
- What would happen if we placed our wants before paying taxes to Caesar?
- What would happen if we placed our wants before serving the Lord?

11 Need or Want?

- So is serving the Lord a need or a want?
- It is written: “As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’” (Romans 14:11 NIV)
- If the Lord is a need, why do we treat it as if it is want?
- Do we believe somehow we can put God at the end of the line and everything will work out well?

12 Good Stewards

- How we use our money, tells everyone what is important to us.
- If we are good stewards of the resources God has given us and use them for His glory we will find that not only our needs will be met, but a measure of our wants as well.
- However, if we are bad stewards and use what God has given us on ourselves, will he give us more?

13 Show Me the Scriptures

- Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (Proverbs 3:9–10 NIV)
- Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. (Joshua 1:8 NIV)

14 Show Me the Scriptures

- One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. (Proverbs 11:24–25 NIV)
- He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy. (Proverbs 14:21 NIV)

- Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38 NIV)

15 Show Me the Scriptures

- If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered. (Proverbs 21:13 NIV)
- “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35 NIV)

16 The Secret of being Blessed

- The secret of being blessed is not merely found in the abundance of a person’s possessions.
- It is found in the abundance of their giving, instead.
- This is why many are frustrated and toil long and hard hours at work and trying to get rich.
- This doesn’t mean we can be lazy and slothful and somehow God will bless us because we’re quoting the promises of God.
- What it does mean, God is faithful in giving and has the power to bless those who are like him.

17 Show Me Your Faith

- If the secret of true riches is giving, all those on a fixed income shouldn’t worry about giving because giving is only for the rich not the poor.
- No, the answer is giving to God and to His purposes is for everyone.
- However, it doesn’t always need to be money. It can be our time, prayers, and encouraging words.

- The poor and those struggling with the finances shouldn't exclude themselves from a principle of God's kingdom if they can help it.
- In fact, when the poor give, it stops God in his tracks and he is impressed. [See Mark 12:41-44]