

ENJOY THE SECURITY OF OBEDIENCE

Matthew 25:14-30

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If we are to be good and faithful stewards, we need to:

- A) Acknowledge the sovereignty of God.
- B) Be aware of and avoid the subtlety of debt.
- C) Adopt the centrality of the tithe.
- D) Accept God's plan and enjoy the security of obedience.

2 Kings 5:1-15 – Naaman is healed of leprosy.

Six life-changing lessons that can have a direct application to our finances:

1. No one is immune from problems.
 - What's your problem?
2. God will use the most unlikely sources to get us what we need.
 - What unlikely sources has God used in your life?

3. The answer to our problem won't usually be what we want to hear.
 - How has this been true in your life?

4. We'll be tempted to come up with our own plan.
Proverbs 3:5-6
 - What was Naaman's plan? Your plan?

5. Wise friends will always encourage us to do what God says.
 - They will always tell us what we need to hear, not what we want to hear.

6. God's way is always the right way. There is great security in obedience.

Obedience always requires two things:

- a. Faith - the issue is am I willing to trust God and do it His way?

Obedience will always require faith on our part.

- b. Faithfulness - obedience requires faithfulness.

You have to ask, "Can God trust me to do this?"

When you decide to obey God, be prepared for three things to happen –

1. Discouragement
2. Distractions
3. Detractors

God never calls us to the easy way or the lazy way or the inexpensive way or the convenient way.

He always calls us to the right way, His way.

Our part is to listen, our responsibility is to obey Him and do what He tells us.

Eight simple strategies to help you get out of debt and be free forever from financial stress and difficulty:

1. Trust God. (*Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 6:33*)

2. Tithe.

3. Develop a budget. (*Luke 14:28-29*)

4. Get out of debt. (*Proverbs 22:7*)

- Remember the word INTEREST. It really, means SOMEONE ELSE is making money - not you!
- Remember what the letters DEBT stand for –
- Dumb Explanation for Buying Things
- Don't Even Buy That
- Don't buy anything you can't pay cash for.
- Start paying off your debts.

4. Start saving. (*Proverbs 13:11*)
 - Always spend less than you earn.
 - Set a goal to have more money left at the end of the month.

After you give God's tithe – save 10% for yourself.

6. Begin a margin/emergency fund.

7. Have a will.

8. Don't quit or turnback. (*Luke 9:62*)

Remember Naaman – the issue wasn't the washing it was the obeying. He obeyed and was blessed.

What's your attitude?

Acknowledgements to:

- Walt Russell, Generous Loving, Generous Giving
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