



Finding Extra

Luke 12:13-34

The Big Idea: Getting the freedom financially to fully obey God.

The Bottom Line:

A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

Review

We are talking about getting our finances Back in the Black, and we've linked this to the laws of balance:

- Reference Point – Got to know
- Constant Correction
- Clear Objective – Honor God

We ended the first week with the reference point: “You should be knowin’ where all your money’s goin’.” Spy on your money.

The second week, we talked about our objective, which is to honor God with our money. Why? Because it all comes from, belongs to, and is distributed by God.

Last week, we began talking about Constant Corrections. Last week's constant correction began with debt and the danger of consuming ourselves into slavery. Do the hard work of clawing your way out of debt!

Introduction

Today, I want to talk about another correction that impacts your extra.

Tension

Extra money, you say? I don't have any extra money! You probably don't have as much extra as some people you know because your desire for extra is like the rest of your appetites. Appetites can never be fully or finally satisfied.

Also, most people don't have extra money lying around. It rarely lays around. We usually find stuff to do with it. Whenever you have more of something than you need, the tendency is to become undisciplined.

You have extra if ...

- You eat out, go to the movies, or have a cell phone.
- You have two cars or own a home.
- You have an expensive coffee habit.
- You have pajamas, work clothes, relax clothes, work-in-the-yard clothes, and a seasonal wardrobe.
- You have ever traded something in that works for another bigger, brighter, shinier, newer one.

We are so accustomed to extra. That is the reason we feel we don't have any. Instead, we feel financial pain when we have less "extra" than we used to.

We rarely ask: Why do I have extra?

Jesus defines greed as the assumption that lives extras are for our consumption. This attitude leaves us with little margin for generosity.

Instead of asking, "Why don't I have more?"

Try asking, "Why did God give me more?"

Truth

Jesus addresses this issue head-on. One day, a man was accusing his brother of being greedy because he would not give him his fair share of the inheritance. Jesus warns him, the one not getting his fair share, of being greedy, and Jesus makes the following statement:

"A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

– Luke 12:15

Read: Luke 12:13-34

Takeaways

If you assume the extra is all for you, you need to make corrections before your life is demanded of you. If you have a saving plan and a spending plan but no giving plan, you need to make a correction.

When you think the extra is for you, you will save/consume carefully but give sparingly. If God has blessed you with more than you need, it is so you can share your abundance with those in need.

Application

1. Determine your current giving and saving last year in total dollars and percentage.
2. Pick a new percentage to grow your giving and saving, and put it on autopilot.
3. Percentage giving and percentage saving is the best way to ensure you don't consume all your extra. This forces an adjustment in your savings and spending.

Conclusion

Don't be deceived. Your life does not consist in the abundance of your possessions. If you have a hard time being generous, make corrections before your life is demanded of you.

Generosity is not calculated in total dollars but in percentages. Be rich toward God.

This week, figure out how rich toward God you've been. Then, make up your mind, choose a percentage, and pre-decide.

Force yourself to live as one who no longer confuses possessions with life. This will free you of any deception from bondage to your stuff. As you move forward, you will be freer to submit yourself to the rule of your Father in heaven.

Next Steps

- Memorize Luke 12:15.
- Take the 6-Month Tithe Challenge.
- Calculate How Rich You've Been Toward God.
- Pre-Decide Your New Percentage.
- Put It On Autopilot.

Discussion questions for group this week:

1.What does this teach me about God?

2.What does this teach me about me?

3.How do I apply this to my life?

4.If I could ask a question about this it would be....