

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for October 7, 2007

The Bible and Personal Finances
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God owns everything and we are only stewards of whatever God has entrusted to us (Deuteronomy 10:14; Psalms 24:1).

It is more blessed to save than to borrow (Deuteronomy 15:6, 28:12).

It is more blessed to give than receive (Acts 20:35).

Christ considered the activity of giving not just moderately blessed but exceedingly blessed, both in terms of the present age and the age to come (Mark 10:28-30).

Christ illustrated the exceeding blessedness of giving in the present age first of all in terms of relationships (Mark 10:29-30).

Christ in essence told His disciples that those who had left the comfort and support of their biological family would be compensated exceedingly by being joined to a much larger spiritual family (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Christ secondly illustrated the exceeding blessedness of giving in the present age in terms of material wealth (Mark 10:29-30).

The reason why we cannot understand that giving up material resources for the sake of Christ, such as houses and farms, is a guaranteed path to greater material wealth is because of the context.

Based on the immediate context, Peter, in Mark 10:28, was only concerned about obtaining spiritual riches, and therefore Christ's response in Mark 10:29 must be interpreted in light of that concern.

Based on the broader biblical context, Christ made it very clear to people that they should not expect grand houses and expensive farms if they chose to follow Him (Matthew 8:18-20).

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Christ in essence told His disciples that those who had left houses and farms would be compensated exceedingly by an overwhelming satisfaction equivalent to a hundred houses and farms.

Christ told His disciples that those who left their families and their houses and farms for His sake and the sake of the kingdom not only would receive blessings in this life but eternal life in the next.

We are not saved through giving up things for Christ, we are saved by faith in Christ and the giving up of things for Christ is simply the evidence that we are in fact saved.

Giving is the evidence that we are in fact saved because giving is what Jesus is all about and if He truly is indwelling us and living His life through us of course we will give.

May God give us the grace to experience the exceeding blessedness of giving in this age and the age to come.