



BLINDSIDED BY OBSESSION FOR WORLDLY THINGS

Do Not Worry

Luke 12:22-34~²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

It's actually quite easy to find out where our treasure is. It could be as simple as looking at our checkbook register.

What would your checkbook register look like; or for that matter your credit card statement?

Pastor Rob~“\$\$\$ HOARDING \$\$\$: FOOLS WHO HOARD RESOURCES ARE IN FOR A BLINDSIDE. Even without a real-estate bubble or great recession the fool is in for one. Yes, many were blindsided by the current historic economic crisis but the fact remains; even without such a crisis, one who lives to hoard; who lives to store instead of share, will be blindsided. They will be blindsided by the loss of relationships as good-hearted people around them, even sometimes by their kids or childhood best-friends, who are turned off by their money obsessions. Worse yet, should they die w/o having their eyes opened they will awaken soon enough to the reality that there are no U-Hauls behind hearses.”

On Not Loving the World

1 John 2:15-17¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Some have the understanding that money is the root of all evil. Actually money is not evil. It is not evil to have money. It is evil to LOVE money or lust for money.

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

On Trusting God

Malachi 3:10 (ESV) *Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

"Doesn't a retirement plan indicate a lack of trust in God?" "Isn't saving the same as hoarding?"

Jesus didn't say that storing up treasures on this earth was necessarily wrong. He did say it is a sin to prepare only for earthly gratification without also being abundant toward God.

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-22 (NIV) ¹³ *Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."* ¹⁴ *Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"* ¹⁵ *Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."* ¹⁶ *And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest."* ¹⁷ *He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops."* ¹⁸ *"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.'* ¹⁹ *And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."* ²⁰ *"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'* ²¹ *"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."* ²² ***Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.***

When does healthy and scripturally sound investing or storing cross the line?

The line is crossed when our investing and storing morphs into a **lust** for more; and when more still isn't enough and we want more and more.

Proverbs 13: 18a~*"Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline..."* In other words here...we need to be disciplined and be good stewards of what God has given us. God expects us to make wise choices with our finances. If you are struggling to pay bills but somehow manage to eat out on a tab that would buy a week's worth of groceries, you are lacking discipline. Further to that end, you are **blindsided** to the fact that others see this behavior. In fact the very friends that you might count on for help one day may refuse (understandably so) to bail you out of your mess because of that. Quite simply, discipline means understanding the difference between a "luxury" and a "need" in a time of despair.

How Full is Your Backpack By Jon Walker

Matthew 7:14 (NCV) But the gate is small and the road is narrow that leads to true life. Only a few people find that road.

Imagine trying to walk down a narrow path that is hemmed in by thorny vines and low hanging branches and you're wearing a backpack overstuffed with the many things you think you need.

Imagine how exhausted and frustrated you'd be as your heavy backpack kept getting snagged in the branches and the vines. You'd begin to see that many of the things you carried were more of a hindrance than a help, and so one-by-one, you'd start pulling things out of your backpack, regretfully tossing them aside.

Imagine how you would feel when you come to the end of the narrow path and discover that to get to where you want to go, you have to squeeze through a very small gate.

You start to pull the last of your things out of the backpack, but then you realize there is no sense in taking an empty backpack through the gate.

So you reluctantly leave it behind and head through the small gate into a new life. It is your life in Christ and you have followed Jesus down this narrow path and through this small gate into the kingdom of heaven.

Inside the kingdom, you realize you've made your journey more difficult than it had to be simply because *everything you'd been so reluctant to leave behind* is useless in your new life. And the things that Jesus provides for you in your new life are far more precious than any thing you left behind.

When Jesus demands our allegiance, he isn't trying to take good things away from us; rather, he knows the world is coming to an end and he is trying to prepare us for an eternity living with him.

How are you doing with your goals and plans for this Decade of Destiny? What's that one thing you're reluctant to give up? Maybe it's not a thing; maybe it is giving up the lack of discipline when it comes to your finances, or your health, or your Bible study.

Whatever it is, Jesus brings you to this choice: Will you trust him when he says you need to give this thing up, or will you insist that you need to carry an overstuffed backpack throughout the next ten years?

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." ~Missionary Jim Elliot, killed while attempting to tell the Waodani people in Ecuador about Jesus.

They say that "charity begins at home," but in one family's case, charity began with their home, after selling their house and downgrading to give the profits to charity. Mark Strassman looks at the spirit of giving. Check out this video:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=6183278n&tag=api>

BRINGING IT HOME

We live in an age where success is measured by possessions; the 3-car garage, the need for more counter space, more cabinet space, walk-in closets, and easily accessible attics. We just can't seem to find enough room for all our stuff and yet we seek more and more and more. The average garage can't even accommodate a car because of all our stuff and we even put stuff inside of other stuff!

16% of children in the United States live in poor families. How much is enough?

