

SERMON NOTES: ----- Pastor Jack Bracy

How To Take Control Of Your Finances
A SYSTEM THAT REALLY WORKS

August 16, 2009; Matthew 6:19-34

"However, **there should be no poor among you**, for in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, **he will richly bless you, if only you fully obey the Lord your God and are careful to follow all these commands** I am giving you today." *Deuteronomy 15:4-5 NIV*

Is Your Life Free From Financial Anxiety?

"**The thing you should want most** is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. **THEN** all these other things you need will be given to you." *Matthew 6:33 NCV*

Get It _____

- _____ give God control of my Money Matters
- Honor God with the _____
- Live within _____
- Develop a _____

11 Budgeting Tips:

1. _____ create a realistic plan that you will stick to -
6 months specific 6 months general
2. _____ your largest expense items and work on
reducing them
3. _____ goals for this month, next month and the
year

4. _____ keep track of your income and expenses
so you don't go into debt. - Keep receipts for 1-2 months
5. _____ don't give up stick to it
6. _____ your budget plan throughout the year
7. _____ cut up any credit cards you don't need and
refrain from overspending.
8. _____ expenses / debt
9. _____ money when you get a little extra
10. _____ for emergencies and big-ticket items
11. _____ with time and effort, your debt worries will
go away and you will start to feel more secure

Control

1. _____ than everyone else around you
 - No one owes you a living, but you owe your employer a good day's work!
2. _____ – get an education or increase your
education
3. Get _____
4. Get _____
5. Dream a dream – Plan the Dream – Work to fulfill your dream

Decrease Expenses/ Debt. I can already tell you...you think this is impossible for you. You have already cut to the bone and nothing else can be cut. 99% of the time, you will be wrong.

- There are some basic principles of personal finance that you must understand. They are so simple that you think you already know them. But, in most cases, people in trouble act as if they do not exist.
- If you spend more than your income, you are going into debt.
- If you continually spend more than your income, you are heading for disaster.
- There are only two ways fix this problem:
 1. Increase your income
 2. Decrease your outgo
- We want a magically solution to our debt problems just as we want a magical solution to our weight problems. There is only one way to lose weight...by consuming fewer calories than we burn up. But we always want an easier plan.
- With our finances we want the same magic. But in the long run, there is only one way—to spend less than your income.
 - Seriously look at your expenses to see what can be cut back.
 - One dollar saved is equivalent to increasing your income by two dollars.
 - Extra income usually gets spent...I have an extra \$100 a month so I can get that car I always wanted. Extra income almost never gets people out of debt. That comes by reducing spending.
- Interest on debt is probably the greatest waster of your money. So, by refusing new debt, you will begin to reduce your expenses
- Other areas to consider. Look at the following questions:
 - Check your repetitive expenses like phone extras, cable TV, health club, etc. Do you really need them?
 - How much are you spending on pets? Could you give them to a friend?
 - How much do you really spend on your hobbies? Don't guess. Add it up. What could you cut?

- What do you spend on eating out?
- What do you spend on Sin? Cigarettes, alcohol, drugs?
- What do you spend on entertainment? Sports?
- How much do you spend on vacation? Could you stay at home and take short trips in your surrounding area this year? Could you go to state parks instead of expensive amusement parks?
- Could you drive a cheaper car, live in a smaller house, eat more beans and potatoes, and buy fewer pre-prepared foods?
- I hear your protests. That only demonstrates the problem. You are not unable to decrease your expenses. You are unwilling. If you are out of debt, then God allows certain extras. But if you are deeply in debt, something has to give.