

READING THE FINE PRINT BALANCED – WEEK 2

INTRODUCTION

- Greed is an interesting thing. Greed is something that's easy to see in someone else but almost impossible to see in myself. Occupy people are just as greedy.
- I've had people admit they struggle with anger, lust, jealousy, wrong motives, compromise, lack of discipline—but never greed.
- I judge others by their actions, but I judge myself by my feelings, my motives. I'm not greedy because I feel charitable, I feel caring, I feel compassionate and generous, whether or not I really am.
- Greed = an inordinate desire for something, particularly wealth. Inordinate compared to who?

Last week we looked at the three laws of balance:

- Reference Point – as long as I stay focused on the top of the pole, it's easy to balance; cheerleaders in a pyramid
- Constant Corrections – walk a straight line, arms wide out; cross a creek on a log
- Clear Objective – I've got to know what I'm doing; what am I trying to do?

Every financial decision is a spiritual decision.

What is your overall objective financially?

- Spend all you can?
- Make all you can?
- Save all you can?
- Give all you can?

You can be out of balance financially in any of these areas.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷He 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 all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things 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 anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:13-21 (NIV)

WHAT MADE THE RICH FARMER FINANCIALLY FOOLISH?

- HE FORGOT WHERE IT CAME FROM.
- HE MISINTERPRETED WHY HE HAD IT.
- HE CONFUSED FINANCIAL SECURITY WITH ULTIMATE SECURITY.

BEING RICH TOWARD GOD = HOW WELL I MANAGE WHAT GOD PROVIDES.

- GOD IS THE OWNER AND PROVIDER;
- I AM THE MANAGER
- FINANCIAL BALANCE PRINCIPLE #2: HONOR GOD WITH EVERYTHING I HAVE.

THAT'S OUR CLEAR OBJECTIVE

ACTION STEP: GET THE BIG PICTURE

RESOURCES:

Go online to xroadscc.org/homepage/balanced to download the financial overview worksheet