

BEAR MARKET BLUES PT2
PASTOR GLENN BARTEAU
5-4-2008

What do you do in a bear market?

(Story) Guy is lamenting... he put a bunch of IRA in Starbucks Stock... the stock is down...
 Another guy says... I've been waiting for this, I buy a bunch of the stock, and I think if it goes any lower I'm going to get some more. What an opportunity.
 ↳ One guy is thinking like a victim, and the other guy is thinking like a wealthy person.

Def Wealthy: Wealth is having a positive margin between our needs and our resources. We can afford to buy more than we need... you have margin.

You might be wealthy if...

I'm sure that's not any of us in the room... but little exercise... because there might be a couple of wealthy people in here and they don't know it... how cool would that be.

Grocery shopping... you have so much in your refrigerator that you actually have to throw some of your food away to make room for the food you just bought

Leftovers in Tupperware - or you can fix a dinner with so much food that you can't eat it all. You've probably never seen these because wealthy people are the only ones who really need these... see... you put the food right in here and then you stick this in your refrigerator... because you don't want to throw away good food... so you keep it in here until it goes bad... then throw it away. (See only rich people think of this stuff)

Lazy Boy Chair – This special chair... you know what it's called... a Lazy boy. Not worker boy, not active boy... Lazzzzzzzzy boy. Wealthy people have got it made....

Room just for your cars.... I'm serious wealthy people don't just have a house for themselves... they have a whole house just for their cars... it has special doors and everything... door made for cars to go through.

Q: And you want to know how to tell if you're really wealthy... you have so much stuff that you can't fit your cars in their little house...

Big tupper ware - I'm sure you've never seen these before, but these (little Tupperware) come in bigger sizes... like this.

Room for Clothes – I know it sounds crazy, but rich women have a room in their house just for clothes.

Q: And you want to know how to tell if you're a really wealthy... woman? If you've ever stood in front of your room for clothes and said... (I've never seen this, but I've heard it's true) they will stand in front of the door and say... I have nothing to wear.

Country that gives away money just to stimulate - You might be wealthy if you live in a country where they give out money to help stimulate the economy... they just give away money... here's some money... We just want you to go spend it.

Q: Question... probably silly I'm sure it's not true... but...
What if you are wealthy?

We live in a culture that constantly sends us the message you need to get rich.

(ILL) Radio Add - Follow my 3 steps and you can get into a wealth cycle... no matter what you already have... you need more...

Check This Out... *Randy on American Idol...* "Check this out... What if the thing we to understand the most is not... how to get wealth... but how to be wealth.

T>> You may not know this but the Bible has a lot to say to wealthy people. So if you're not wealthy they you can just blow off the rest of the sermon... *but you know...* if you can't squeeze all your cars into your garage because you have so much other stuff in there... this might be for you?

I think scripture speaks to those of us who are wealthy... because, hard to believe... you've probably heard rumors out there...

In Jesus day Back in Jesus' day people had a problem. They could actually spend their entire margin and then spend more... if you're rich they will let you "charge it".
But the satisfaction would only last a little while... the lack lasting contentment and happiness

Role Models But fortunately we live in America where... that never happens....
Because we have role models like, Paris Hilton, Homer Simpson, and the guy w/ the bad hair... *Trump*

1 Tim 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be **arrogant** nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our **enjoyment**. (not guilt)

1) View life as a blessing.

Guilt

Arrogance

Guilt and wealthy never go together well. The Bible never asks us to feel bad for making money, or being wealthy.

Repeatable

Don't feel guilty... it's okay to be wealthy to have margin. It's a good thing. "I'm wealthy" This is your first step in wealth therapy....

Arrogance – Look at me, I must be smart, powerful, or a really hard worker.

Being smart and hard working are admirable qualities... but they are not reasons to be arrogant. We should be careful not to give ourselves full credit for what we have.

- ✓ You didn't control what family you were born into, or the era you were born into.

(ILL)

My "Little Grammy" was a harder working human ... and I put her up against anyone in this room... little 4'10... but I have more than she could have ever dreamed of having.

- ✓ Think of the mentors, or teachers you were blessed with, or special opportunities
- ✓ You might have been born with special skills or abilities... Your gene pool have had more to do with it

Hard work and applying your self is admirable... But don't become arrogant about what you have.

Friend

He and his wife are smart and savvy, and successful, and I heard him say once... it's better to be blessed than smart.

Rather than being arrogant about their wealth... they carry a deep sense of being blessed.

Carry a sense of gratefulness, I'm not saying to deny and pretend you don't have troubles, or that you don't want anything else I the world... there are always more to get... things that appeal to my wants...

I can spend my life discontentment always looking to the next thing I want... or

I can put my focus on the good things and opportunities I have now, and live w/ a constant sense of gratefulness.

1 Tim 6:18

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

↳ Three words...

2) Be a blessing....

If we can carry a sense of gratefulness.... Of being blessed.

Real wealthy people long to “be a blessing”!

First - Bless God...

This is for those who are followers of Christ... Who've started a genuine relationship with Him.

Pro 3:9

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops;

While a tithe goes to the local church... A tithe is all about a gift we give God.

I'm not going to go into all the theology behind a time... this morning, but often I'm asked. Why does God want us to give the first 10th of our income to Him.

God doesn't need it...

(ILL)

That's like saying your mother doesn't need a card or flowers on Mother's Day. (buy the way, guys... mother's Day is coming up... you should be thinking about the card)

We don't give moms to cards to meet a physical need... we spend the money on cards, flowers, or lunch to bless them...

Think of your tithe as an act of worship that blessed God. When we tithe we are making the strongest of statements about our heart's devotion and willingness of love and follow God. Bless God through a tithe.

Second - Bless others...

“Be generous and willing to share”

Make a point of deciding to give to others. To advance God's kingdom... to be rich in a different way... rich in good deeds.

- Choose to prioritize this before you set your own standard of living. If we budget all our own wants and desires then try to tithe and bless others... guess what...? We never have enough... because we live in a world with an endless supply of things.

Chandler

But Dad... you don't understand.

No matter how successful or wealthy he becomes... unbridled acquisition of stuff will not give him true joy.

⇒ This is so counter intuitive to my children... tithing, and using my margin to bless others first... then set my standard of living.... It's so counter intuitive.

Desire:

Here's what I desire for my son... that he would grow-up with a desire that he would feel blessed by God... to enjoy all that he has or ever gets... to find true contentment.

→ I desire that he would be a blessing to God... I hope he loves God... puts his hope and security in God.... That a tithing would be a normal to him.

That in difficult times he would look to God.

→ I desire that Chandler would be a blessing. That he would see his resources in bull markets, or bear markets as an opportunity. That he would have a heart for the poor and hurting. That he would long to expand God's kingdom over his own... That he wouldn't just give leftovers to the church.

I want my children to have the qualities of generosity, care, and love for people.

I want my children to grow up rich in love and generosity... I desire that.

Economic Stimulus package

Apparently we are wealthy... because we live in a country where the government is giving away money to stimulate the economy.

So... At dinner we ask them... what do you think we should do with all of this? I conversation flew to big screen tv's, video, games, room additions to the house to put all this stuff in... suddenly we didn't have enough... we needed more money...

Tithe

And we talked about giving God the first tenth... and why...

And... Let's talk about how we could bless others...

Colie and Chandler had talked w/ me about a story of children who lost their parents... and I could tell it really touch Colie's heart.

Mothers w/ aids

So I did a little research on a Christian ministry that's devoted to mothers and children in the Sub-Sahara where aids is ravaging the population especially the children... How we could help mom's learn how to prevent contracting aid, from spreading it to their children, and caring for children who've lost parents to aids.

This spark of empathy started to shine in Colie... That suddenly she started thinking like someone rich... rich in God... she wanted to be a blessing.

Chapel Give something extra to the Chapel... I said someday that might be the place where you guys get married.”

Colette looked at me and point at Chandler and said “do we really have to marry each other?”

Counter Intuitive: This is becoming an on going dialog in our family... because this is so counter intuitive for my kids. And it’s counter intuitive to me as well.

Unbridled acquisition of stuff for me is the natural bent... but it’s not who I desire to be... I want to find my joy, contentment, and security in God.

I desire this for you as well...

That you would think and feel blessed.

That you would long to be a Blessing.

To bless God... and bless those who have less than you.

Benvolence Offering:

Now... don’t give out of guilt... If my message has made you feel guilt this morning... then I missed the mark...

Give because you feel blessed and would like to bless others with less than you.

If God has spoken to you in someway this morning... and you are feeling wealthy and blessed... and would like to be a blessing... this is a great first step in a new kind of life-style...

“Do we have to marry each other?”

Here’s what I desire for all of you.

To feel blessed... to feel wealthy in God.

To be a blessing to God... to put God’s kingdom before yours.

To be a blessing to others... to see what you have as an opportunity bless someone else.