

BEAR MARKET BLUES #1
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BACKGROUND SLIDE #1

SLIDE #2: I am expert at diets. I have tried them all!

If you want to weight less, then we have to eat less. We have to make wise choices.

You have 500 calories to spend. So, you choose carefully. You spend it on the really good stuff.

SLIDE #3: 1 mini-chocolate bar = 18 diet jellos

SLIDE #4: 1 slice of pecan pie = 1.5 pounds of fresh fruit

SLIDE #5: 1 small hot dog = 1 entire plate of sushi

SLIDE #6: 3 m&ms = 1 entire bowl of salad

When we have limits, we crystallize our priorities.

What if we are talking about money instead of calories.

In recession times we have less (salary frozen in increasing inflation) or think you will have less (\$4.00 gas), then begin to choose priorities.

SLIDE #7: Short series on Bear Market Blues—recession!

SLIDE #8: Explain Bear and Bull Market for younger

God has a lot to say about handling money.

SLIDE #9: Explain Budget CHART: Percentage guide, family income

Non-negotiables

Net spendable income

Ball park percentages

Notice the two NON NEGOTIABLES

TITHE

•SLIDE #10: Mat. 23:23: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tithe . . . But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the [important matters], without neglecting the [tithe]."

TAXES

SLIDE #11: Matthew 22:21: Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

SLIDE #12: After tithes and taxes what you have left to work with is your Net Spendable Income.

The Bible very carefully lays out a financial plan of money management that includes giving to the Lord, paying taxes, how to buy a house, how to plan for retirement, and addresses such issues as medical care,

clothes, food and paying for college and refrigerators.
Goal is a surplus to pass on to others.

Casas Economics Classes:

SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND IN A BEAR MARKET.

SLIDE #13: “Batten down the hatches.”

Sailing term: storm and big waves, you close up the hatches to keep from swamping the ship!

In a recession, the unemployment rate goes up.
Recession doesn't do much unless you are laid off.

Biggest problem in a recession is if you get laid off—names now.

SLIDE #14: “It's a recession if you lose your job. It is a depression if I lose mine.”

SLIDE #15: Get your emergency fund in order.

Be reconciled to it. It is there for emergencies: downturn in economy, loss of job, unexpected medical bills.

How much? Many recommend three to six months salary.

•SLIDE #16: PROVERBS 21:20: “In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.”

A wise man does not spend all of his income. He saves some of it for future consumption. The fool consumes all of it as it comes in.

Not only have we spent everything that has come in—we have spent money that has not come in.

The Bear Market is not a time to be in debt or in a risky situation
No more debt or purchases.

Don't spend your tax refund.
Like BFA, US Government has become a giant ponze scheme.

Many of us need to “batten down” our attitudes.
Am I a money addict? Let me give you some characteristics of materialism addiction.

- SLIDE #17: Overspending
- SLIDE #18: Compulsive Buying
- SLIDE #19: Being discontent with the things we have
- SLIDE #20: Holding on to more wealth than we need (Hoarding)
- SLIDE #21: Failing to give God the top portion of our income
- SLIDE #22: Spending everything we make and saving nothing for the future
- SLIDE #23: Borrowing money for depreciating items
- SLIDE #24: Cheating on our income tax
- SLIDE #25: Using a credit card and not paying off or being able to pay off the balance completely at the

end of the month

- SLIDE #26: Getting nervous or upset when the pastor preaches on money

SLIDE #27: The Bear Market Blues is an excellent opportunity to review our financial plans. Unfortunately, if we have no plan, it is time to get some help and develop one.

- SLIDE #28: Four levels of planning

Immediate (pay bills with a positive cash flow)

Short range (emergency fund)

Medium range (car, college)

Long range (retirement)

- SLIDE #29: 1 TIMOTHY 5:8: If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

The Greek verb, “provide”, is hard to translate into English. It includes the dimension of “taking thought in advance... to anticipate.”

We must anticipate those needs and be certain that the money is there when the need arises.

Let me illustrate. Many of our family’s needs are predictable needs.

- SLIDE #30: We know that we have to paint our houses every five years or so.
- SLIDE #31: The refrigerator goes out every ten or fifteen years.
- SLIDE #32: Our car is going to be used up every seven to ten years. Car insurance comes due every six months.

Now, any one of these items can wreck our financial picture if we don’t plan and have the money there – but the money can be there if we budget properly and save accordingly.

Here is the question: Are you anticipating your family’s future financial needs and setting aside the money to meet those needs?

Or do you just hope that the money will be there when the need arises?

There are only two approaches for meeting future financial needs including emergencies.

- SLIDE #33: One way is to save a part of every dollar that comes into our hands to meet those needs.
- SLIDE #34: The other way is to spend all we make and to plead to God for mercy and help when the need arises.

- SLIDE #35: Two Great Temptations

*Great temptation to cash in IRAs during economic downturns.

Don’t do it. Don’t withdraw your IRA (tax sheltered compounding interest) need 30% to make up the difference. You will never catch up.

Albert Einstein: “Compounding interest is the 8th wonder of the world.

Dad on retirement (long-time away: thought time would never come.

*Great temptation to panic and redo all of our investments.

Investments, stay the course, don't panic. Seldom wise to sell all and get out of the market.

•SLIDE #36: Graph of Stock Market performance

Rebalancing, dollar cost averaging works best

The Bible says that organizing our finances around a budget is one of the best ways to manage well the assets God has entrusted to our care.

•SLIDE #37: PROVERBS 27:23: "Be sure you know the condition of your flocks. Give careful attention to your herds."

Now if you don't have any flocks and herds, just put whatever assets you have in there: probably money, savings accounts, stocks, bonds, a house, a car.

What this verse is saying is know exactly where you stand financially.

Dina: having to live on a budget. Made poor choices.

(After talking to Bob Henry)

"I shop for school clothes, jeans and shoes. I have no idea how much I have to spend."

"So you feel guilty every time you buy anything!"

"If I knew how much I could spend it would make it so much better."

SLIDE #38: **The Bear Market is a good time to see the hand of God at work.**

Is God using this "bear market" time to get my attention?

What is God's overall intention for me?

SLIDE #39: Jeremiah 29:11-14: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD

Astronomy and Telescope. Wanted a telescope.

Cost \$1,000. Couldn't justify and besides, Julie said "No."

Decided to pray. Met Ron Watkins on Sunday morning on sidewalk. "I have this large telescope and no place to put it. Do you know anyone who might be able to put it in their backyard for awhile?" (Smile) Within two weeks a \$2,400 telescope was installed in my backyard. Out of 104 Messier objects, I've viewed over 3/4 of them with my own eyes. For free.

SLIDE #40: Might God have a better future in store for me?

Disaster is often better 2 years later.

Dad and Braniff

SLIDE #41: Is this a time to deepen my trust in God and in His provision?

Personal testimony: First portion of every thing Julie and I have ever made went to God right off the top. He has blessed us immeasurably.

Came to Casas in 1976 and the church promised Julie and me \$1200 per month. Above poverty level. No benefits, had to pay retirement, medical, travel, etc.
First week here, chief deacon called me aside and said, "We made a mistake, we can only pay you \$1100 per month." Mind you, I had not even preached my first sermon and I had just received a \$100 pay cut.
Julie used to hate Fridays. My day off—paid bill—so depressing."
Julie, how are we going to make it?" Tithed, tight, but we still made it.

Until Jessie got sick. \$12,000 in doctors bills. Insurance paid \$9000. Casas took up spontaneous offering and we took everything out of our savings and we were still \$1500 short.
Merle Speere took me to lunch. "How short are you?" "\$1500. Wrote out a check on the table and said, "If you get any more bills, they are mine.""

(You say, "Well, you are the preacher!" No, no. My story is not unusual. It is the story of many. How many, show of hands, would testify I have a story like that. I give God the top portion and he has blessed me. I have no regrets.)

SLIDE #42: Is there anything about my financial dealings with God that might need mending?

Compare Proverb 3:5-6 and Haggai 1.

- SLIDE #43: PROVERBS 3:9-10: Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.
- SLIDE #44: HAGGAI 1:3-4: Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"

God is saying, "You folks didn't seem to have any trouble getting a plush house to dwell in, in spite of the economic conditions or the drought or the hostile political climate. Somehow you got your house built; but my house lies waste."

- SLIDE #45: HAGGAI 1:5: Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways.
- SLIDE #46: HAGGAI 1:6: You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

Isn't that a graphic picture? Paychecks don't last until the end of the week.

The amazing thing is that in the midst of this inflation and adversity, these people had gotten their houses built and yet, they were unable to get the house of God built.

How did they handle tough economic times? They cut God out of their budgets.
The bear market is not a time to cut back our giving to God.

He is saying, "Reorder your priorities. Put God's work and God's will first in your life."

(Infants and children do not understand this)

Get the church more money?

Casas recession cycles (more money in recessions as people return to Godly priorities)

SLIDE #47: Might this be a time to worship God at a deeper level than I ever imagined?

Job lost it all and he worshipped.

SLIDE #48: Job 1:20-21: At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship 21 and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

"What's Next Class" Ray Edwards and Carol Gowler

In the first session, they always hand each person a \$5 bill and ask the people to discuss what questions come to mind when they receive this gift. Some asked "Is it real?"

"Can I keep it?" "Can I have more?" "What do I have to do to earn it?" "Are there strings attached?"

Then Ray explains that God's grace is a free gift that they can never earn, they can simply choose to receive it. Understanding that concept of "grace" was so revolutionary for those young Christians, some kept it forever as a bookmark in their Bibles, or framed it for the wall.

One lady, however, was flat broke. She told God she was going to receive this gift and trust Him with the rest of her life. She used her five dollars to buy gas to go to a job interview. She got the job. Now she calls it "God's job" because she realizes it was completely a gift from Him.

SLIDE #49: **The bear market is an excellent time to deepen our community.**

The early church shared everything in common.

ACTS 4:32-35: ... but they shared everything they had. ... There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

The Bear Market is a time to deepen our awareness of the needs of others?

People move into bob's house for three months. Great friends

Remember, every time the dollar falls it affects our missionaries overseas. Those here at home—housing and homeless.

A single mom, newly divorced shared with me her hurt when her husband walked out, and she was forced to raise her children, without child support, on a minimum wage salary. Tears in her eyes as she reminisced. She wept when she described how some of her Christian friends talked of going off for a weekend on the lake.

"They spent more on gas to run their boat than I had money to buy meals for my children until next Monday."

Stories Phil ABF (confidential for a reason)

Brain tumor
Clean house

Julie are ordinary people with resources just like you who have followed these principles throughout our lives.

Our moms and dads followed them, and we have never regretted following their example.

"Give and it shall be given to you, pressed down, shaken together, running over."

I always thought that would mean I give to God and He gives me back a lot of stuff.
Now I understand that is the surplus.

What He has given to Julie and me the opportunity to give more—the most fun, rewarding, exciting way to live.

Julie and I were just reminiscing over this year about the cool ways God allowed us to give:

In addition to giving God His tithe, and pledging to Global outreach He let us personally:

- SLIDE #50: Buy a van for a mission team to spread the gospel in Mongolia
- fund a summer missions project for an entire team in Morocco and Tunisia
- provide housing and schooling for missionary kids,
- give technical equipment for CCC in the Middle East
- provide a college scholarship for a young convert cast out from her Moslem family
- paid house repairs for a single mom
- buy a piano for a missionary worship team
- pay conference fees for pastors who couldn't afford to go,
- buy food and clothes to missionary children,
- provide medical care to a pastor family who had no insurance,
- provide seminary scholarships for students
- helped to start a church plant
- funded and built a website offering free resources, sermons, Bible studies and podcasts for pastors who can't afford them,
- pay off some financial debts of a missionary couple in trouble
- provide funds for evangelistic sports camps, six national pastor conferences and four overseas conferences
- send three pastor's kids to camp
- give money to help build two church buildings

I am telling you, it works: for some of you, to a much greater level than this.
To others a smaller level.

Come full circle: God has blessed Julie and I so we can start giving to others. Proper management produces a surplus that we are able to share with others.