**“Can You Stand To Be Blessed?”**

**Luke 5:4-8**

**08/21/16**

How are you handling your debt? Debt is the way the devil keeps you bound or yoked up to a life of lack. Debt can take on many different forms it’s not just related to finances. It’s any area where you are experiencing lack. This can be financial, emotional and or spiritual. It is the driver the devil uses to get you to act out of fear instead of faith. As the body of Christ all too often we want and expect you to give to support the ministry but we are not concerned about your stewardship or teaching you how to become better stewards over your time, talent and treasure. Often times giving is not the issue. You want to give but find yourself limited in giving because you are suffering or trying to give out of lack. This sermon is for those who would love to give more but your money is funny. You want to give but necessity, like feeding your family and paying rent supersedes your ability to give. Let’s deal with debt! God has promised in **John 10:10**, an abundant life. You should always have a surplus. Remember without revelation there can be no transformation and without transformation there can be no manifestation! If you don’t have manifestation you end up back at familiarization. Manifestation is when you begin to see God doing something different in your life. If you don’t begin to see change then you find yourself going back to what you thought worked for you in the past, keeping you in a vicious cycle that keeps you bound to debt. The way the “world” tells you to handle debt; is designed to keep you debt. God wants you to be set free today!

**Fished All Night**

Now when we look at the **Luke 5** we see experienced fishermen who have fished all night. Now these men were professionals at their jobs and any experienced fisherman back then knew it was best to fish at night but they found themselves working all night long and had caught nothing. They had done what they had always did and found themselves in a position of what once worked for me before is now not working. How many times have you found yourself in that same predicament? The goal of debt is to keep you shackled to prevent you from doing the will of God. Debt is a burden and keeps you from being able to do. Do you have a plan in place? Debt is 90% your mindset and 10% your actual finances. In **Romans 12**, it tells you not to conform yourself to this world, don’t try to adapt to it; don’t take on its ideals and superficial customs; those customs which give off a “certain” appearance but really has no depth. It gives off an appearance to be working but it’s really and truly a broken system. It goes on to say to be transformed, be changed entirely by the renewal of your mind. Conformity is based strictly on what you do. It’s based on your behavior. If you do xyz then you will have xyz. It’s based on a system of natural works; you doing everything within your own power and with your own efforts. To be transformed means to be dramatically and thoroughly changed and is supernatural; its God adding His ability to your ability. Transformation is not on the surface but gets down deep, so deep that you become an entirely new creation. For example the butterfly, it starts off as a caterpillar and becomes something entirely new once it completes its transformation. The world tells you to put your money in banks and then charges you to withdraw your own money. They charge you if don’t have enough activity and charge you again if you have too much activity. It’s a broken system.

**What Does The Bible Say About This?**

The question you should always ask yourself when making a decision is this…”What does the Bible say about this situation?” Now, Simon Peter was a business owner, a craftsman, he was an expert fisherman. But Simon Peter in this situation found himself to be unsuccessful. Jesus told Simon to let down his nets but Simon didn’t fully trust Jesus and so he agreed but he agreed half-heartedly. Simon let down a net, a single net when Jesus told him to let down multiple nets. You may have found yourself in this same situation as Simon Peter. You agree to do what God says in His word but you only do it partially because you lack the faith to do it wholeheartedly. In **John 21**, after Jesus was crucified the disciples went back to familiarization, they went back to fishing. Simon Peter forgot what Jesus had told him in **Luke 5:10**, that from that day forth no longer will he be a fisherman but he would be transformed into a fisher of men (meaning he would draw men to Christ). After that day Simon Peter and the some of the others with him began to follow Christ and Jesus taught them of the kingdom and of faith and of the plan of God. But after Jesus was gone they reverted back to being fishermen. **Ephesians 3:20**, tells us that God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all we can ask or think, the part that is most widely not stated in this popular verse of scripture is that is based on the power that works from within us. You have a part to play in your success, in your abundant life. Blessings is not based on what you think but the blessing is based on are you able to stand the obedience of being blessed? Can you be a good steward over what God has blessed you with? What has God been saying to you about your finances? The devil has yoked you up to debt but God wants you to learn how to deal with your finances.

**Blessings Are Not Just For You!**

Blessings are not just for you; God wants you to be a distribution center. (**See verse 7**) God wants you distributing good will toward others. You must write the vision and make it plain. (**Habakuk 2:2**). You must sit down and make a plan to get out of debt. You have to sit down and feed your mind the word of God and what He says about your finances. In **Deuteronomy 15:6**, God has promised He will bless you. He said you will lend to others and not borrow. God wants you to give for Kingdom building and He wants you to pay you. He wants you saving something for the future then live off the rest. God states the world’s economy is a broken system that doesn’t work. The world tells you; you need credit card debt which charges interest. The world tries to take away what you don’t have. For example you can’t pay your bill by the due date and because you can’t they charge you a late fee. Get your finances ready in order to do what God has asked you to do. For Simon Peter the change happened when he responded to what Jesus had asked him to do. You cannot continue to do a little God’s way and a little your way. Get out of debt $1.00 at a time. Get out of debt 1 bill at a time. Don’t allow the timetable to deter you from the goal of being debt free. Don’t allow debt to continue to steal your joy and don’t be afraid to downsize. Get a smaller house if you need too. Don’t worry about people’s judgement because those same people who judge you will not be there to help you. For the young people who are reading this **WAIT!** Learn and train yourself to wait now so you can be happy later!

**God’s Plan: Learn how to be blessed that you may be a blessing to others!**

1. **Take $25.00 a month and add it to 1 bill to pay if off quickier.**
2. **Then take the $25.00 plus the amount of the bill you paid off and start putting it toward the next bill to pay if off and so and so on.**
3. **Take your raises over the next 10 years and put it into savings (in 10 years you will have 6 months’ worth of salary and less bills.**

Change your thinking! You are the problem, not your money. There are all kinds of debt. Debt is a spirit!

**Health Debt: Smoking, over eating, liquor.**

**One day your body will pay up.**

**Emotional Debt: Allowing people to withdraw from your heart, draining you. They always take.**

**\*\*\*Seek God on how to manage your debt; it’s 90% mental and 10% of the physical issues\*\*\***