

January 25, 2015

Flat Broke #1

Prosperity- Gods Plan For Man

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Psalms 35:27 "Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant."
KJV

We will begin a new series on prosperity or finances and we shall be laying a foundation on the above scripture. "God has pleasure in our prosperity", but many times when prosperity or finances are mentioned sometimes people are repulsed or turned off with the subject. But the question is "does God want His people to be blessed, is it His plan that all our needs would be met, and have extra money in the bank?" The religious mind would say that this is not important.

First we must seek God; there is a truth that must be considered. The truth will set us free, however that same truth can cause us to deny the truth that is in the bible. There has been misuse of the teaching of prosperity, but the bottom line is that God is not against money for his people, He is against greed and covetousness. Religion has taught us poverty is next to godliness, but this is not scriptural. We must lay down the past prejudice that we might have regarding the prosperity message and have an open heart and a hearing ear to receive the truth of God's word regarding prosperity.

Matt 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." KJV

1 Tim 6:17-19 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; 19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." KJV

Our priorities and attitudes must be in line with God's word.

David is getting ready for his son Solomon to build the temple and he has made

arrangements for his contribution to the building to be set in order. The amount that he has said that he would give is more than we can imagine. The temple is to be the most extravagant thing ever built. David gave over and above an offering, was giving out of his own holdings.

1 Chron 29:3 "Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house." KJV

1 Chron 29:3 "Then David the king addressed the congregation: "My son Solomon was singled out and chosen by God to do this. But he's young and untested and the work is huge—this is not just a place for people to meet each other, but a house for God to meet us. I've done my best to get everything together for building this house for my God, all the materials necessary: gold, silver, bronze, iron, lumber, precious and varicolored stones, and building stones—vast stockpiles. Furthermore, because my heart is in this, in addition to and beyond what I have gathered, I'm turning over my personal fortune of gold and silver for making this place of worship for my God: 3,000 talents (about 113 tons) of gold—all from Ophir, the best—and 7,000 talents (214 tons) of silver for covering the walls of the buildings, and for the gold and silver work by craftsmen and artisans. And now, how about you? Who among you is ready and willing to join in the giving?" MSG

David realized who had blessed him, knowing that it was God who had given everything to him, but his attitude was to give it all back to God.

1 Chron 29:12-17 "Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. 14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. 15 For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. 16 O Lord our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own. 17 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee." KJV

We are stewards of the blessings of God, but our attitudes regarding money must be as David, knowing that God is the one who has given to us and our willingness is to give it all back to Him. God has given us the wisdom and knowledge to obtain wealth if we will act on it.

Depending on what part of the world that we may live in, poverty is viewed differently. In some 3rd world countries, just to have an animal or transportation of some kind means the difference between total poverty and a person of means. Poverty in our country is viewed differently; believing the government or others should maybe take care of the people, causing dependency through the 3rd

generations it will usually mean that the people will never free themselves from poverty. When God is factored into the situation, there is a chance that the poverty can be broken.

As we begin to renew our minds to God's word and see that it is in His plan for us to be prosperous, we are able to break out of the poverty mentality that the church world tries to keep us down with. There is a process involved as we begin to renew our minds to the truth regarding prosperity. Proverbs teaches that money is always tied to wisdom but is definitely not for the lazy person.

Pro 13:18 "Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured." KJV

Pro 10:15 "The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty." KJV

The first thing God did for man when He created Adam and Eve, He blessed them. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Esau, Job was the richest man on the face of the earth. These men were all blessed with riches from God.

Deut 15:6 "For the Lord thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee." KJV

Gen 13:2 "And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold." KJV

When we reject the part of Gods message about prosperity, we are rejecting a part of what Jesus gave his life for. God is definitely for us. Borrowing causes us to be servants to the lender. Why are we rejecting this part of the prosperity message? Some of the teachings in other churches is, that it is wrong for anyone to have prosperity in their lives. It is a teaching that we must learn the truth about in order to receive God's blessing for our lives.

Psa 112:1-3 "Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. 2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever." KJV

Pro 8:21 "That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures" KJV

Wealth and riches mean just that, it is not a spiritual thing that is being spoken of here, it is actual substance. We cannot pick and choose what we want to take from Gods word; it is all available to us. We need to take the limits off and receive all that He has for us.

2 Cor 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. " KJV

2 Cor 8:9 "For you are becoming progressively acquainted with *and* recognizing more strongly *and* clearly the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (His kindness, His gracious generosity, His undeserved favor and spiritual blessing), [in] that though He was [so very] rich, yet for your sakes He became [so very] poor, in order that by His poverty you might become enriched (abundantly supplied)." AMP

God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants. Chapters 8 and 9 teach totally about money. Praise and worship are connected with giving. These scriptures tell us that Jesus had everything, but He gave it up for our sakes. In His death He not only delivered us from sin and sickness but also from poverty.

Pro 10:4 "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich." KJV

A word study on poverty and rich; poverty means being without or lacking anything and rich means to become wealthy, increased with goods and wax rich and to become richer.

We may not all become rich, but it is God's plan that we have our needs met and have plenty in order to give to others. Money is not the root of all evil; however, the love or worship of money is where the problem is found.

Deut 8:12-20 "Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; 13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; 14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; 15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; 16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; 17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. 18 But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. 19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. 20 As the nations which the Lord destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord your God." KJV

This was God's plan for the children of Israel when they came out of the land Egypt, multiplication in every area of their lives, but because of disobedience they perished.

v. 18 "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get

wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

This one of the things that happens in tithing, the windows of heaven are opened and he gives divine inspired ideas or direction that acted upon releases wealth to come to you over time. He gives power to get wealth.

v. 16 "Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;"

The Lord proves us by obedience, our obedience is in bringing the tithe and then we prove Him. Our disobedience cuts off the favor of God in our lives.

Pro 13:22 "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just." KJV

Ecc 2:26 "For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit." KJV

God's plan is that the wealth be in the hands of the church, the sinner will provide that wealth. Meditating in the word of God, talk about it, think and dream about it. Your mind becomes renewed to the plan and will of God. Let God reveal His truth to you.