

Our Friendship with Jesus and Our Money

Introduction

1. My college days
 2. Debt often comes from idolatry (Col. 3:5).
 3. I'll be happy (or have peace) when _____. Whatever goes in that blank is likely an idol.
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- I. We are in the middle of a *small* financial storm right now. It has been caused by:
 - a. Greed
 - b. Stupidity
 - c. Corruption
 - II. The storm is God's merciful and loving correction.
 - a. We will recover, but the recovery will not last.
 - b. The question is, will we come out of this recovery changed or hardened?
 - III. A *huge* storm is headed our way. It may include:
 - a. Financial collapse.
 - b. Earthquakes.
 - c. Other natural disasters (e.g., exploding methane bubbles).
 - d. AIDS or worse.
 - e. Terrorism and atomic bombs.
 - IV. Wealth will not help in this storm, but the friends of Jesus will survive and thrive just as the Israelites did during the Egyptian plagues.
 - V. The friends of Jesus are cheerful, generous givers.
 - a. Luke 18:18-25
 - b. Luke 16:10-15
 - c. Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-17
 - d. Jesus does not ask for sacrificial giving.
 - i. "Sacrificial" is both too subjective and too relative to be meaningful. It's fine to say, "Give until it hurts." But some of us have very low thresholds of pain.
 - ii. The NT does not recommend sacrificial giving (2 Cor. 8:13-15).
 - iii. I don't think it is possible to give to God sacrificially. Jesus will not let any of us out give Him (Luke 18:28-30).