

**AUGUST 8, 2010**

**DIVESTMENT FOR GOD  
LUKE 12:32-40**

**TODAY WE CONTINUE WITH JESUS' TEACHING ON POSSESSIONS. LAST WEEK WE POINTED TO THE REALITY THAT WE ARE WHO WE ARE BY VIRTUE OF THE LIFE GOD HAS GIVEN US. WE ARE NOT WHAT WE HAVE. WE SHOWED THIS BY DESCRIBING THE TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF ANXIETY AND PROPENSITY TO SELF-CENTERED GREED WHICH OUR ATTACHMENT TO MATERIAL THINGS PROPAGATES. WE ARE ALWAYS WANTING AND NEVER ACHIEVING INNER PEACE THROUGH WHAT WE POSSESS A FEW YEARS AGO A STUDY OF THOSE EARNING LESS THAN \$15,000 ANNUALLY SHOWED THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY THEY HAVE NOT ACHIEVED THE AMERICAN DREAM TO BE 95. THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE EARNING MORE THAN \$50,000 ANNUALLY WAS 94. HAVING NEVER ASSURES SATISFACTION.**

**WHEN WE DEFINE WHO WE ARE BY WHAT WE HAVE WE SHOW THE TENDENCY OF SELF-CENTEREDNESS. WE WORRY OURSELVES SICK OVER LOSING WHAT WE HAVE OR NOT HAVING ENOUGH OR NOT HAVING AS MUCH AS THE OTHER GUY. IN MY WHOLE LIFE, I HAVE NEVER SEEN THE AMOUNT OF FEAR, ANGER, AND INSECURITY THAT IS CENTERING AROUND THIS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN. AMERICA HAS SPENT A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF WEALTH ONLY TO BECOME DIRECTIONLESS.**

**JESUS SAYS ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR WHERE YOU ARE GOING. PREPARATION BEGINS BY KNOWING OUR REAL PLACE IN CREATION. "DO NOT BE AFRAID, LITTLE FLOCK, FOR IT IS YOUR FATHER'S GOOD PLEASURE TO GIVE YOU THE KINGDOM. SELL YOUR POSSESSIONS AND GIVE ALMS. MAKE PURSES FOR YOURSELVES THAT WILL NOT WEAR OUT..." OUR DESTINY IS TO BE WITH GOD. SO WE MIGHT AS WELL SET A COURSE NOW. THIS GOD WHO TENDS THE SPARROWS AND DRESSES UP LILIES IS GLAD TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEED. GOD IS MORE THAN WILLING TO SHARE HIS BEST TREASURES WITH US SUCH AS HIS SON, THE SAVIOR. ANXIETY AND GREED WILL GET YOU NONE OF THAT.**

**JESUS SAID WE HAVE TO BE LESS SELF-CENTERED ON OUR STUFF AND MORE SELF-AWARE OF OUR PLACE IN THE CREATION. A PASTOR WAS LEADING A GROUP OF CHURCH PEOPLE ON A TOUR OF THE HOLYLAND. HE MADE LISTS OF ALL THE THINGS THE PEOPLE WOULD NEED. WHEN THE GROUP GOT TO THE AIRPORT, HE REALIZED SOMEWHERE A LONG THE LINE**

**HE LOST HIS WIFE'S PASSPORT. IT WAS THE MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT. HE LOOKED THROUGH EVERYTHING TO NO AVAIL! HE WAS DISTRAUGHT! HIS WIFE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GO ON THE TOUR, BUT HE WAS THE TOUR GUIDE. IN DESPAIR HE PICKED UP HIS BAGS AND THERE ON THE FLOOR UNDER THE SUITCASE WAS THE DROPPED PASSPORT. TROUBLES IN THIS WORLD COME UPON US LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT, BUT WHEN THINGS TURN OUT SURPRISINGLY RIGHT, WE FEEL BLESSED AND GRATEFUL.**

**PERHAPS, THIS IS WHAT JESUS WAS GETTING AT. "BE DRESSED FOR ACTION AND HAVE YOUR LAMPS LIT" .....IN OTHER WORDS, BE IN A STATE OF READINESS FOR GOD. IF WE READ THIS IN THE WRONG WAY IT COULD BE FRIGHTENING. HOW EXHAUSTING WOULD IT BE NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. THE TO STAY AWAKE ALL THE TIME WORRYING ABOUT WHETHER WE ARE READY FOR GOD OR NOT? IF I LET MYSELF GO, I CAN REALIZE I AM NEVER REALLY READY...THERE ARE ALWAYS THINGS IN LIFE TO GET RIGHT. BUT WHAT IF IT MEANS THAT TO BE SELF-AWARE MEANS TO BE READY AT ANY MOMENT TO SENSE GOD'S BLESSED PRESENCE? WE CAN DO THAT.**

**FOCUSSING ON THE PRESENT AND GOD IS THE ANTIDOTE TO WORRYING ABOUT THE FUTURE, BECAUSE WE WILL BE WITH THE ONE WE WILL BE WITH IN THE FUTURE. FOCUSSING ON THE PRESENT HELPD US HEAL THE PAST, MY LIFE WITH CHRIST IS ALL ABOUT FROM THIS MOMENT ON. WE HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN. WE NEED TO REPENT OF OUR SINS AND ERRORS AND BE CONSCIOUS OF GETTING THINGS RIGHT WITH GOD RIGHT NOW. IF ALL I SAY IS JUST LET ME BE BUSY A LITTLE BIT LONGER UNTIL I GET ALL THE THINGS I WANT, THEN I'LL SETTLE DOWN INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, THAT IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. THE TIME FOR GOD IS ALWAYS NOW. JESUS, ESPECIALLY DURING THIS TIME THAT HE IS ON HIS WAY TO THE CROSS, ALWAYS TAUGHT WITH PRESENT URGENCY.**

**THIS URGENT TEACHING: THOSE WHOSE RICHES ARE IN GODLY THINGS WILL HAVE HEARTS WITH GOD. THEY WILL NOT FEAR JESUS, THEY WILL NOT FRET. THEY KNOW THEIR LIFE'S RICHES AMOUNTS TO BEING WITH GOD IN GOD'S GENEROUS LOVE. THOSE WHOSE RICHES LIE WITH MATTER AND NOT SPIRIT THEY WILL WITHER WITH ANXIETY AND FEAR. THEIR MIND WILL BE ON GETTING STUFF STOLEN. IN NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD GOD COMING AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT. HOW CAN JESUS COMPARE THE FATHER TO A CRIMINAL? THEN IT STRUCK ME. THOSE OF US WHO ARE ATTACHED TO OUR POSSESSIONS MAY ACTUALLY SEE GOD AS**

**WANTING TO TAKE AWAY OUR POSSESSSIONS AND GIVE THEM TO THE POOR LIKE SOME DIVING SOCIALIST!**

**NO, SAYS JESUS. GOD WANTS US TO REALIZE THAT IT IS GOD'S PLEASURE TO HAVE US CHOOSE THE SPIRITUAL , CHOOSE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, OVER OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE THINGS THAT WILL BREAK, BE USED UP, RUST, MOLD, AND BE GONE AT DEATH. JESUS TEACHES THI IN A STUNNING WAY.**

**THOSE WHO LOVE GOD MORE THAN THEY LOVE WHAT THEY OWN WILL EXPERIENCE THE "GREAT REVERSAL IN LIFE." THE ONES WAITING FOR THE MASTER TO RETURN FROM THE WEDDING BANQUET (READ THE "HEAVENLY PLACES OF GOD", READ THE RETURN OF CHRIST), WHEN THE MASTER FINDS THEM ALERT AND READY TO BE BLESSED, THOSE READY TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THE NEEDDS OF THE MASTER WILL DISCOVER, THAT HE WILL TAKE CARE OF THEIR NEEDS AND SERVE THEM. THIS WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF GRECO-ROMAN LIFE IN JESUS' TIME. IN GOD'S KINGDOM THOSE WHO ARE SLAVES TO ANYONE AND THOSE WHO ARE SLAVES TO THEIR BELONGINGS WILL STAY THAT WAY. THOSE WHO EXPECT TO BE BLESSED BY GOD WILL BE FREED OF THEIR ANXIETY AND ENSLAVEMNETS.**

**IMAGINE BEING FREE FROM WORRY ABOUT GETTING WHAT WE NEED AND TRUSTING IN GOID DAILY. IMAGINE BEING FREE FROM THE ANXIETY OF ALWAYS WANTING MORE AND BEING AT PEACE WITH WHAT WE HAVE. IMAGINE BEING FREE FROM THE ANXIETY OF MAINTAINING WHAT WE HAVE AND GIVING A LOT OF IT AWAY. I9 THINK WE SHOULD ALL GO HOME ANDS SELL A LOT OF WHAT WE HAVE IN YARD SALES AND EBAY AND GIE THE MONEY TO THE CHURCH WHICH RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT ISW BROKE. WE HAVE HOUSEHOLDS FULL OF THINGS WE DON'T EVEN DO ANYTHING WITH AND OUR CHURCH IS BROKE. ARE WE LSITENING TO JESUS?**

**IN FINANCE AND ECONOMICS, DIVESTMENT OR DIVESTITURE IS THE REDUCTION OF SOME KIND OF ASSET FOR EITHER FINANCIAL OR ETHICAL OBJECTIVES OR SALE OF AN EXISTING BUSINESS BY A FIRM. I THINK WE ALL NEED SOME SPIRUTUAL DIVESTMENT FOR GOD. WE NEED TO GIVE THINGS AWAY TO BECOME LESS ANXIOUS, LESS GREEDY, AND MORE FREE SPIRITUALLY. LETS START THINKING OF GOD AS THE MASTER WHOSE GOOD PLEASURE IT IS TO SERVE US LOVE AND A GENEROUS SPIRIT...NO THE THIEF TRYING TO STAEL OUR STUFF. TRUST IN GOD.**

2. Patrick Henry – "I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them and that is faith in Jesus Christ. If they had that and I had not given them a single shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor indeed."

1. In 1863, President Lincoln in his proclamation designating April 30 as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer wrote these words: "Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has grown, but we have forgotten God."

Firms may have several motives for divestitures.

First, a firm may divest (sell) businesses that are not part of its core operations so that it can focus on what it does best. For example, [Eastman Kodak](#), [Ford Motor Company](#), and many other firms have sold various businesses that were not closely related to their core businesses.

A second motive for divestitures is to obtain funds. Divestitures generate funds for the firm because it is selling one of its businesses in exchange for cash. For example, [CSX Corporation](#) made divestitures to focus on its core railroad business and also to obtain funds so that it could pay off some of its existing debt.

- A third motive for divesting is that a firm's "break-up" value is sometimes believed to be greater than the value of the firm as a whole. In other words, the sum of a firm's individual asset liquidation values exceeds the market value of the firm's combined assets. This encourages firms to sell off what would be worth more when liquidated than when retained.
- A fourth motive to divest a part of a firm may be to create stability. [Philips](#), for example, divested its chip division called [NXP](#) because the chip market was so volatile and unpredictable that NXP was responsible for the majority of Philips's stock fluctuations while it represented only a very small part of Philips NV.
- A fifth motive for firms to divest a part of the company is that a division is underperforming or even failing.

1. Benjamin Franklin - Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. There is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of its filling a vacuum, it makes one. If it satisfies one want, it doubles and triples that want another way.

2. Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 "He that loves silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loves abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

5. When John D. Rockefeller was the richest man in the world, someone asked him how much money was enough. He replied, "Just a little bit more."

6. The Chicago Tribune (9/1/96) ran the story of Buddy Post, "living proof that money can't buy happiness." In 1988, he won \$16.2 million in the Pennsylvania Lottery. Since then, he was convicted of assault, his sixth wife left him, his brother was convicted of trying to kill him, and his landlady successfully sued him for one-third of the jackpot. "Money didn't change me," insists Post, a 58-year-old former carnival worker and cook. "It changed people around me that I knew, that I thought cared a little bit about me. But they only cared about the money."...