

2020 and Financial Anxiety

Unbroken – the story Louie Zamperini

A Tough Year for Financial Anxiety

Causes - COVID-19, Political Uncertainty

Statistics

According to the American Psychiatric Association, money issues are a source of stress in the lives of 7 in 10 adults.

51% of Americans feel somewhat anxious about their financial situation since the Coronavirus outbreak.

29% have been negatively impacted since the pandemic began.

The Deceitfulness of Money

Five rhetorical questions

V. 25 – Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

V. 26 – Are you not of more value than [the birds]?

V. 27 – Which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his life?

V. 28 – Why are you anxious about clothing?

V. 30 – Will he not much more clothe you?

We probably don't see the problem

Underneath all the worrying is the problem of not believing God cares for us.

The Description of God's Providence

Look! Consider! - How do we know we are worth much more than birds and lilies?

Jesus' Promise – “Your heavenly father knows that you need them”

A Deliberate Course of Action

Seek God’s kingdom and his righteousness

Solomon’s Example

1 Kings 3:7-9 “And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

“I am but a little child” – Humility

“Your servant you have chosen” – His kingship is not for him, but for God

“Give... an understanding mind... to discern good and evil” – Seeking to know God’s will

Solomon’s Fall – A strong warning

1 Kings 11:2 – Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines “from [the surrounding nations] which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither they with you, for they will surely turn away your heart after their gods.”

1 Kings 10:14 “Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold, ¹⁵besides that which came from the explorers and from the business of the merchants, and from all the kings of the west and from the governors of the land.”

Practical Guidance

God will provide for needs, not “greeds”

Part of seeking God’s kingdom is living with wisdom and personal responsibility

Questions for Personal Study

1. What are ways that God has come through for you in times of financial stress and uncertainty?
2. What are some ways that the sins of greed and covetousness sneak up on you?
3. If your finances are in order, are you seeking to honor God with the increase he is giving you? If they are out of order, are you applying responsibility and wisdom to your work life?
4. God says that you are of much more worth than birds. What an understatement! How can you cement his opinion of you in your own mind?