

ACCIDENTAL
PHARISEES

Week 8 – Gift Projection and the Money Police

Final Week

- ***Two new topics to cover today:***
 - ***Gift projection***
 - ***Money, debt, and wealth***
- ***Quick review of book***

Spiritual Gifts

- *Gift projection:*

Whatever God has gifted and called me to do, everyone else should do as well.

- *Gift envy:*

Flip side of gift projection by wishing we had gifts that we see in others.

- *Which do you struggle with more – gift projection or gift envy?*

Spiritual Gifts

- *We do not get to choose spiritual gifts – they are given by God alone and we are merely recipients of those gifts:*

“⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit ... ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good ...¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills” – 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7, 11 ESV

“Full-blown gift projection is the sin of the spiritually passionate ... it is chocolate covered arrogance.”

– Larry Osborne

Spiritual Gifts

- Are some gifts more important than others? **Absolutely not.**

“¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ... ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.” – 1 Corinthians 12:14-23, 25

Gift Projection vs Gift Envy

Gift

Evangelist

Bible Teachers

Gift Projection

Might have a hard time remembering that most people are not wired like them.

Tempted to look down on people who don't know what they know.

Gift Envy

Ability to talk about the Lord so easily with everyone. Focus on eternal things and concern for people's souls.

We may desire to appear as smart or spiritual as a great teacher.

Gift Projection vs Gift Envy

Gift

Missionaries

***Risk Takers (i.e.,
stop human
trafficking)***

***Full time
ministry***

Gift Projection

***Why aren't others sold out
for Jesus? People love this
world and not the things of
God.***

***Equate living by faith as
living on the edge. Take risk
to solve injustices they see.***

***The really committed are in
full time ministry.***

Gift Envy

***Missionaries are the
ultimate example of
spiritual dedication and
sacrifice.***

***I should be willing to step
out in faith but I am a
fearful of ...***

***Do I love Jesus enough?
Should I quit everything to
advance the kingdom of
God?***

Guilt about Spiritual Gifts

- ***Where does guilt come from?***

“And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the **accuser** of our brothers has been thrown down, **who accuses them day and night before our God.**” – Revelation 12:10

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” – 1 John 2:1

Spiritual Gifts

- *Our guilt over spiritual gifts is most often driven by **gift envy** – not from gift projection from others:*



- *It's usually applied to something we think is especially important in the kingdom of God and wish we were better at.*
- *God has not called and gifted each of us with high-profile gifts (evangelism, teaching, church planters, etc).*
- *Instead Jesus has called all of us to show our workplace, community, and neighborhoods the love of Christ.*

Spiritual Gifts

“The body of Christ can go a long way without the gifts that get most of the glory and without the roles we tend to envy.”

– Larry Osborne

Money Police



*What is this
guy's message?*



Money Police

- *If you don't line up with some Christians' standard of how to deal with money/debt or generosity (or sacrifice), they won't just criticize you – they'll question your salvation.*
 - *The money police will write you off as a materialistic bogus Christian who rationalizes away the hard sayings of Jesus.*

*“Today there's also a strong tendency to read the Bible through the lens of a **poverty gospel**. It asserts that godliness is found in simplicity, suffering, and poverty. It has a built-in bias against wealth.”*

– Larry Osborne

The Money Police

*“⁹But those who **desire** to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For **the love of money** is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this **craving** that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”*

– 1 Timothy 6:9-10

*“The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the **slave** of the lender.” – Proverbs 22:7*



Money Police

- *Is there good debt vs bad debt?*
- *Should Christians avoid all debt?*
- *Scripture warns against debt, and extols the virtue of not going into debt, but does not forbid debt:*



*“If among you, one of your **brothers** should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, ⁸but you shall open your hand to him and **lend him sufficient** for his need, whatever it may be.” – Deuteronomy 15:7-8*

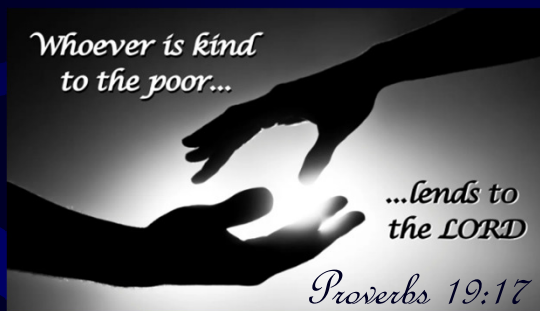
*“Give to the one who begs from you, and **do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.**” – Matthew 5:42*

Money Police

- **The Bible has harsh words of condemnation for lenders who abuse those who are bound to them in debt:**

“If you lend money to any of *my people* with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall *not exact interest* from him.” – Exodus 22:25

“³⁵If your *brother* becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. ³⁶*Take no interest from him or profit*, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. ³⁷You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit.”
– Leviticus 25:35-37



“You may charge a foreigner interest, but *you may not charge your brother interest*, that the Lord your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.” – Deuteronomy 23:20

Money Police

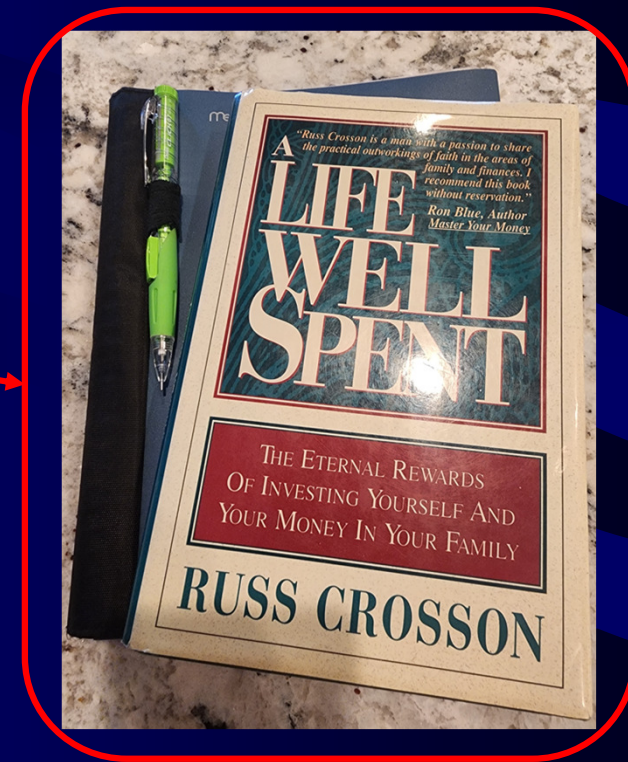
- *The Bible also has harsh words for those who borrow and do not pay back.*

*“The wicked borrows but does not pay back,
but the righteous is generous and gives”*

– Psalm 37:21

*Best Christian book on
finances we have ever read*

*“On the one hand this book is about money, but
on the other hand it is not about money at all.
This book is really about life, eternity, and your
family.” – Russ Crosson*



Money Police

- *The poverty Gospel is a pendulum swing away from the prosperity Gospel:*
 - *The poverty Gospel asserts that godliness is found in simplicity, suffering, and poverty.*



- *Claim **money** is the root of all evil.*
- *Scripture says it is the love of money and the desire to be rich that cause them to wander from the faith (1 Tim 6:9-10).*

People in the Bible Who Were Wealthy

Old Testament

- **Abraham (Gen 13:2)**
- **Isaac (Gen 26:12-13)**
- **Joseph (Gen 41:37-44)**
- **Boaz (Ruth 2:3)**
- **David (2 Chr 29:28)**
- **Solomon (1 Kings 10:14-25)**
- **Jabez (1 Chr 4:9-10)**
- **Jehoshaphat (2 Chr 17:5)**
- **Hezekiah (2 Chr 32:26-28)**
- **Job (Job 1:3)**

New Testament

- **Joseph of Arimathea (Matt 27:57)**
- **Zacchaeus (Luke 19:2)**
- **Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37)**
- **Lydia (Acts 16:14-15)**

Money Verses Used Out of Context

- Rich young ruler is used to point to the high cost of following Jesus (“**go sell all that you have and give to the poor**”):
 - Are we willing to give it all up for Jesus?
 - The story is actually about the man’s arrogance and pride.
 - Jesus did not tell anyone else to give up everything to follow him.
- If we want to be consistent – we would need to insist that everyone who follows Christ sell **everything they have** and give it all to the poor.



Matt 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-31, Luke 18:18-30

Money Verses Used Out of Context

- *Zacchaeus also shows that Jesus didn't ask us to sell everything (Luke 19:1-10):*



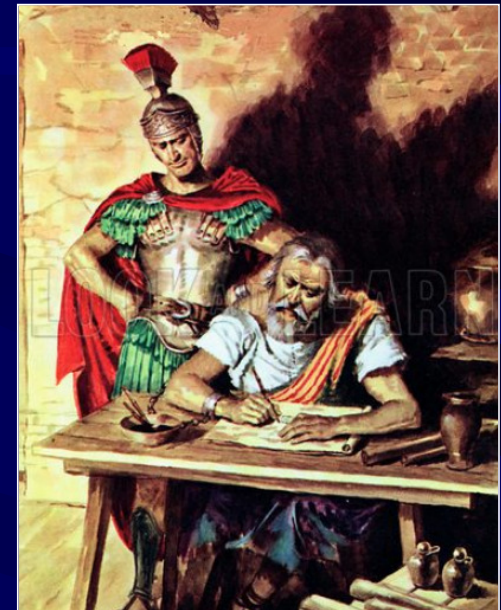
- *Zacchaeus was not just a tax collector, he was a chief tax collector.*
- *Zacchaeus only offered to sell half of his ill-gotten gains and he offered to repay anyone he defrauded four-fold.*
- *Jesus didn't ask about the rest of his ill-gotten gains or say "It's all or nothing."*
- *The story is about how Jesus can save and change anyone, even a chief tax collector.*

Right view of Wealth According to Scripture

- ***Paul gave Timothy instructions for rich Christians in Ephesus:***

- ***Don't be arrogant.***
- ***Don't put your hope in wealth.***
- ***Do good and be rich in good deeds.***
- ***Be generous and ready to share.***

“¹⁷As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.” – 1 Timothy 6:17-19



The background is a dark blue gradient with several lighter blue wavy lines that create a sense of movement. On the right side, there is a vertical silver bar with a gradient, resembling a film strip edge.

***Summary of
Accidental Pharisee***

Summary

- *We are all susceptible to becoming Accidental Pharisees. Most often it starts with:*
 1. *A failure to grasp the true gravity and depth of our own sin.*
 2. *A heightened disgust for the sins of others.*
 3. *Justified by a cut-and-paste theology that emphasizes some of the hard sayings of Jesus while ignoring those that speak of His compassion, mercy, and grace.*

Summary

*“Nobody today is a self-avowed, card-carrying Pharisee, after all. We keep the word as **verbal mud** only to be thrown at others.” – Michael Reeves, *Evangelical Pharisees**



How Can we be a Modern Day Pharisee?

1. A deepening sense of frustration and disdain for those at the back of the line. Instead of a Jesus-like compassion for those who can't keep up, we view them with cynicism and a cocky arrogance.

“Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” – Matthew 9:13

“²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” – Luke 19:10

“As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.” – Romans 14:1

How Can we be a Modern Day Pharisee?

2. A spirit of exclusivity. When thinning the herd becomes more important than expanding the kingdom; or raising the bar becomes more important than helping people climb over it, something has gone terribly wrong.

*“¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, **bearing with one another in love.**” – Ephesians 4:1-2*

*“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may **present everyone mature in Christ.**” – Colossians 1:28*

*“¹²For what have I to do with judging **outsiders**? Is it not those **inside the church** whom you are to judge? ¹³God judges those **outside.**” – 1 Corinthians 5:12-13*

How Can we be a Modern Day Pharisee?

3. The addition of extra-biblical rules and expectations. Few of us would see ourselves as legalists. We think we've moved on from old school legalism because we no longer judge people by what's in their refrigerator. But the spirit of legalism still runs strong. We now judge people by what's in their driveway and how big their house is.

*"In vain do they worship me, **teaching as doctrines the commandments of men**" – Matthew 15:9b*

²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

*⁴**Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another?"** – Romans 14:2-4*

How Can we be a Modern Day Pharisee?

4. A pattern of **idolizing** the past. Whether it's the New Testament church or the scholars of old, we tend to give them a free pass for their failures. But the present-day Bride of Christ and the current crop of leaders that Jesus has put in place are assailed for their blind spots, failures, and feet of clay. Like the Pharisees of old, we rip on the living prophets and then build monuments to them once they die.

*“Say not, ‘Why were the **former days better than these?**’ For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.” – Ecclesiastes 7:10*

“Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed.” – Luke 11:47

How Can we be a Modern Day Pharisee?

5. A quest for clone-like uniformity. Jesus had room for Simon the Zealot and Matthew the Tax Collector. Yet sometimes, the more biblically grounded we become, the less room we have for anyone who hasn't yet learned all that we've learned. The result is a circle of fellowship that's tighter than Jesus's circle of acceptance.

*“¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, ‘**Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,**’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, ‘**Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,**’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸**But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.** ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰**As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.**” – 1 Corinthians 12:14-20*

How Can we be a Modern Day Pharisee?

6. Gift projection. It's the toxic belief that my calling is everyone else's calling. It disfigures the body of Christ by insisting that ears become eyes and hands become feet. It looks like passion for the mission. But in reality, it's chocolate covered arrogance.

***“⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”** – Romans 12:6-8*

Final Word ...

“Following Jesus is not a race to see who can be the most radical, sacrificial, knowledgeable, or quickest to burn out. It’s not a contest to see who’s willing to take the hardest role.

For the gospel to remain the gospel, grace and mercy have to remain front and center.”

Final Word

“There is nothing praiseworthy in a feel-good, lukewarm, consumer Christianity that never asks us to change or do anything. It makes Jesus gag.

But we must never forget that there is also nothing praiseworthy in a spiritual zeal that looks down on others or sublimates (diverts or modifies) Jesus’ grace and mercy in order to emphasize our radical obedience and sacrifice. That too makes Jesus gag.”

– Larry Osborne



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