

CHECKING YOUR GAUGES as we drive through 2010:
Checking Your Financial Gauge

SHARE

Tell about a time in your life when financially things were good and times were good. Tell about a time in your life when things were financially tight and tough.

BEGIN: Our need of a Godly financial gauge in 2010

Many people are experiencing financial challenges such as debt, a frustrating job, or inadequate savings. Suffocating materialism is robbing people of their spiritual vitality. That's why Jesus talked so much about money. 16 of the 38 parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. Indeed, Jesus said more about money than about almost any other subject. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, fewer than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,350 verses on money and possessions.

NO GODLY FINANCIAL GAUGE:

Society says God plays no role in handling money, and my happiness is based on being able to afford my desired standard of living. *What I possess I alone own, and I alone control my destiny.*

THE GODLY FINANCIAL GAUGE:

Scripture says as you learn and follow the Biblical principles of how to handle money, you will draw close to Christ and learn to be content in every circumstance. *What I possess, God owns. He is the sovereign, living God who controls all things.*

Let's learn from the story of the Prodigal Son: Read **Luke 15:11-20**.

EXAMPLES OF NO GAUGE

- He loved things and used people
- He squandered his money
- He was looking on the immediate not on the future
- He wanted instant gratification
- He spent all he had
- He believed that this money was his

- Take a few minutes to discuss the Prodigal son's situation and how having no financial gauge can create problems in life.
- What are some key lessons or points from this story that you can apply to your own life?

EXAMPLES OF A FINANCIAL GAUGE

- He searched for a job
- He admitted that he made some bad choices
- He didn't sit and whine in the pig pen...he came up with a strategy
- He humbled himself to the will of the Father

- What are some key lessons or points from this that you can apply to your own life?
- Take a few moments to discuss the idea of forming a Godly financial gauge in the following areas: Your spending; your saving; and your giving.

CLOSE IN PRAYER