

FRIDAY, February 12, 2010:

Day 24/40

Proverbs 31:16 *"She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard."*

The Proverbs 31 woman teaches us a very important financial principle: *"Develop a plan to keep your money working for you."*

Remember, one of the purposes of our annual 40-days is to cause you to reconsider every area of your life. Most people need to reconsider what they are doing with the money God is entrusting to them.

Most people are working for money, instead of money working for them. How is this? They are spenders; not investors. Being a saver is good; but being an investor is even better.

Saving money has to do with being prepared for emergencies and security. This is an important part of your financial planning. But the Proverbs 31 woman also teaches us to be an investor. That is, putting your money to work for you with hopes of a return.

God has a better plan for you than just surviving. He desires to bless you so that you can have the greater option of being a blessing. This will never happen if you live your life with no plan for saving and investing.

Remember, spenders are always at the mercy of others; savers only survive; but savers and investors have a chance to **be** a blessing.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 19:6-7

"Measure your clothing budget to a naked Christ who hung on a cross." _From Sonja's 2007 Journal, November 4th entry

SATURDAY, February 13, 2010:

Day 25/40

Proverbs 11:16 *A gracious woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth.*

Ladies, hang with me a bit here; this verse uses a little "male chauvinism" to prove a point. If you ever go on a ball field and listen to a group of boys playing ball you may hear expressions like, "You swing (or throw) like a girl!" Just in case you don't understand, among a group of boys, that is a putdown (sorry ladies...nothing personal).

Well, the writer of this verse is using that same sort of strategy to motivate his sons. (Remember, Proverbs was written mainly to Solomon's sons.) Solomon is telling his boys to not get caught up in just gaining wealth. Life is about so much more. He says, "Even a woman is respected that understands this principle."

Respect is the oxygen for a man's soul. It is what motivates us. Many men think that the way to get respect is to have the most money, power, and the best "whatever." But really respect is not about what you have; it is about what you are. And that is true whether you are a man or a woman.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 22:1

"Remember, when you were made a leader you weren't given a crown, you were given a responsibility" _Jack Welch, *Winning*, p. 72



Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional

For the week of February 7, 2010

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

What I am thankful for this week:

MONDAY: _____

TUESDAY: _____

WEDNESDAY: _____

THURSDAY: _____

FRIDAY: _____

SATURDAY: _____



MONDAY, February 8, 2010:

Day 20/40 Half-way point!

Five Excuses that will not work with God

Number Three: Incredibility (Exodus 4:1)

Moses objected, "They won't trust me. They won't listen to a word I say. They're going to say, 'God? Appear to him? Hardly!'"

Peer pressure is a powerful thing. I suspect that we never get completely free of the temptation of worrying about what people think about us.

Here was Moses, raised in a palace, educated, experienced in life and eighty years old and still worried about how people would react to him.

What about you? How are you doing in this department? Please understand, you can't make the B-E-S-T decisions if your motivation is to be accepted. For example, serving people by doing what is in their best interest doesn't always mean that you do the popular thing or the thing that they want done at the moment. Even Jesus, in order to save us all, had to be willing to be rejected and betrayed by all.

Bottom line, God will not let you have two gods: Him and anyone else. This forty days of prayer and fasting is a time to starve that craving in our lives to be accepted by men and instead focus on doing what is required to please God.

It will be a happy day when you reach the place that knowing that God is pleased with you is enough; only then can you make the B-E-S-T choices.

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 1:10

Just as the opposite of love is not hate, but rather, fear...so the opposite of peace is deeper than just conflict – the opposite of peace is insecurity.

TUESDAY, February 9, 2010:

Day 21/40

Five Excuses that will not work with God

Number Four: Inarticulateness (Exodus 4:10)

Moses raised another objection to God: "Master, please, I don't talk well. I've never been good with words, neither before nor after you spoke to me."

I want to remind you today that a good life, not a good vocabulary is what matters. It sure helps to be able to communicate well; but which would you rather hear say, "I'm here to help" – a smooth talking shyster, or a quiet but solid man of character?

Remember, what makes your blessing have weight; what makes your words of encouragement matter and your service and touch meaningful (B-E-S-T) is not your ability to talk smoothly, but because your character matches your words and actions.

This is a part of what 40-days is about, building character by starving out of our lives bad habits, selfishness, and sin. Stay focused, don't quit now; I bet people are beginning to see a new character when they see you and I bet they like it!

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 55:21

"Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary, use words." _ St. Francis of Assisi

WEDNESDAY, February 10, 2010:

Day 22/40

Five Excuses that will not work with God

Number Five: Insubordination (Exodus 4:13)

But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else."

I want to remind you that there are just some things that God will not let you "off the hook" for. It is a part of your destiny. You can resist, postpone, pushback all you want, but you will progress no further than that point of rebellion.

Over the years, I've seen so many people struggle in this area. They know that God has a better plan for their lives but they insist on doing things their own way. The result is always tragic.

Maybe this devotional is for you, today. Perhaps it's time to "fess up" and surrender to God's B-E-S-T will.

Remember, you not only have to work, you also have a work to do.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 22:29

There are five coping mechanisms for relating to any transition: "hold out," "keep out," "move out," "close out," "reach out." _ Leonard Sweet, Post-modern Pilgrims

THURSDAY, February 11, 2010:

Day 23/40

Proverbs 8:17 *"Wisdom says, 'I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me.'"*

Making a determined and sustained effort to grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God will lead to a successful and fulfilling life. It will take awhile, but as the witness of countless seekers of wisdom teach, the gradual accumulation and application of God's truth in your life polishes you and shapes you and makes you into the person you were designed to be.

There are no shortcuts; it's a daily thing. But God's promises are sure and his wisdom is available to all who seek it.

This year's theme is "Giving our B-E-S-T", but don't forget last years theme...remembering to ask the most important question before making a decision, "Is it wise?"

SCRIPTURE: I Chronicles 22:12

"THE SO-CALLED SECRET TO QUICK ANYTHING BENEFICIAL IS LIGHT-YEARS REMOVED FROM THE TRUTH. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE RACE IS WON BY RIGHT OBJECTIVES PERSISTENTLY PURSUED." CHARLES R. SWINDOLL, LAUGH AGAIN P. 177

- W = What does the word of God have to say about it?
- I = Am I making an intentional or impulsive decision?
- S = Am I making a self-serving