

English

About Finances

Increase your Standard of Living

Jorge Tadeu

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INDEX

1- INTRODUCTION......7

2- MONEY IS VERY SPIRITUAL11
3- IS IT TABOO TO TALK ABOUT MONEY in the CHURCH?!
3- GOD IS GOOD AND THE DEVIL IS EVIL 4- GOD IS NOT IN CONTROL 5- THE ROADSIDES 6- THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD – God is against Money 7- THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD – Going after Money
4-WRONG THOUGHTS OUTSIDE the CHURCH

5-WR0	ONG THOUGHTS INSIDE the CHURCH39
MI	ISTAKE # 1 – The left berm
	ISTAKE # 2 – God wants poor Christians ISTAKE # 3 – To suffer for love of Jesus
MI	ISTAKE # 4 – Abstinence / Poverty
	ISTAKE # 5 – Poverty is a sign of humility ISTAKE # 6 – God is against riches
	ISTAKE # 0 – God is against riches ISTAKE # 7 – Thanking God for everything
MI	ISTAKE # 8 – The Right Berm
MI	ISTAKE # 9 – God is in control of everything
6-THE	WILL of GOD is that EVERYONE PROSPERS53
1 -	– Definition of prosperity
	– Prosperity in everything – Some wrong ideas
	- God's Promises
	- Biblical Examples
	- Prosperity is Conditional - Prosperity is progressive
8 -	- What is the purpose of God blessing us?
9 –	- What is the CAUSE of so many problems on earth?
7- HO\	N the CURSES ENTERED the EARTH77
	LY JESUS HAS the POWER to REDEEM US
from th	ne CURSES91
9-THE	WAR CONTINUES99
	ELAW of SOWING and REAPING115
	- SOWING and REAPING
	– The Size of the Harvest – SOWING FIRST to REAP LATER
_	- VARIOUS TYPES of FINANCIAL SEEDS

11-	TITHES
	 4 – To whom do we give Tithes? 5 – Where must we give Tithes? 6 – THE FIRST FRUITS for GOD
12-	CLOSE the DOOR to the THIEF
13-	HOW TO GET OUT of a FINANCIAL CRISIS151 1 – INTRODUCTION 2 – The SYSTEM of the WORLD /METHODS of GOD 3 – DESTROYING CASTLES in the MIND 4 – The LAW of SOWING and REAPING 5 – SOLUTION – SOWING in TIMES of HUNGER 6 – HOW to FIND your POINT of CONTACT with GOD 7 – PREPARE YOUR SEED of FAITH
14-	HOW TO INCREASE YOUR LIVING STANDARDS 169 1 – INTRODUCTION 2 – Make God Your Source 3 – GOD'S METHOD 4 – Sow MORE to REAP more
15-	CORRECT ATTITUDES 179 1 – Seek First the Kingdom of God 2 – GIVE for LOVE of JESUS and the GOSPEL 3 – GIVE the FIRST FRUITS and NOT the LEFTOVERS 4 – HELPING GOD BRINGS REWARDS

1 - INTRODUCTION

Never follow the advice of a person who is a failure in life. There are people who are real failures in their financial life and are telling others how to be prosperous.

You should listen to a person who is successful in that area.

The most successful man on earth was Jesus Christ.

When Jesus was at a party and the wine finished, Jesus transformed the water into wine.

Is that not a success?

They needed to have their needs supplied, and Jesus did that. This is what being successful means.

One day, 5.000 people were listening to a sermon and were hungry.

Jesus fed the crowd with only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes. He supplied the needs of the people.

Many people think that Jesus was a pauper here on earth.

In part He was because He gave up all the riches He had in Heaven; but even while being poor, Jesus had a treasurer, Judas, who kept the money.

Judas was a thief and was constantly stealing money. There was so much money in the bag that the other apostles did not notice Judas stole money.

You must listen to Jesus and follow His advice.

Jesus did not have a job, but was always giving money.

I have to listen to a man like this.

You should not listen to those that do not know how they are going to pay their bills.

One day Jesus wanted to his pay taxes and He was not worried: "What am I going to do now?" No!

Jesus sent one of His disciples to go to the sea and catch a fish; in the mouth of the fish he found the money to pay the taxes.

Some readers are worried about the bills they need to pay. Businessmen have taxes to pay.

Do not listen to the advice of those who are failures in life, but follow Jesus.

And if He tells you to do something, no matter how incredible it might seem, just do it!

It will be useless for you to read this message and not practice it.

If the disciple that Jesus had sent to fetch the money from the mouth of the fish had not gone, they would not have had the money to pay tax.

They had success and financial victory because they did what Jesus said, whether they understood it or not.

You will have to do what Jesus says.

2 - MONEY IS VERY SPIRITUAL

Money is very spiritual.

Why?

Because we always spend money with the people we love.

And not only do we spend money with the people we love, but also with THINGS we like.

Whoever thinks that it is wrong to give money to God, does not love God.

Someone who thinks it is wrong to give money to build a Church, does not like Churches and thinks that it is a waste to build houses for God.

A father gives everything to his son; however, he receives nothing in return.

Why? Because he loves his child

When a baby is born, it costs a large amount of money – nappies, a cot, clothes, the hospital, medical consultations, etc.

The parents never complain because everything they are spending is out of love for their baby. If they had more money, they would spend even more on their baby.

Why? Because they have a great love for their baby

The parents never think it is a waste of money to give so much for a few baby clothes that are very expensive and last a short period of time.

Why? Because they love their child

They feed the baby everyday. Nevertheless, people who do not love God always think that it is a waste for Christians to spend "so much" money with God.

Why? Because they do not love God

These same people feed their children **EVERYDAY.**

But giving to God once a week is very bad for them.

Why?

Because they do not love God

Those who accuse preachers of "extorting" money from the people are those that do not admit under any circumstances that there might exist people that love God to the point of giving money to the house of God.

Since they would be incapable of giving money to a Church, they quickly deduce, wrongly, that everyone is like them.

So they think that preachers use schemes to extort money from the people.

They think that preachers use tactics of hypnotism, or in some way force people to give their money to the Church.

But they forget that no one is forced to leave their houses and go to a Church.

People are not robbed at gunpoint to get into a Church.

People who enter a Church do so voluntarily and by their own two feet.

They are not forced, either physically or with the use of weapons, to give anything to the Church.

So why do people give money to Churches? Because they love God and the work of God.

We always SPEND MONEY WITH THOSE WE LOVE.

There are also those who think that only the weak, the wretched, the society misfits, allow themselves to be fooled to come to Church.

But that is also wrong.

All sorts of people, from all social classes, come to the Churches; from the most simple people, to lawyers, doctors, engineers, politicians, etc., etc...

Are doctors, lawyers, etc... stupid people?

Are engineers, politicians, etc... weak-minded people that let themselves be deceived by swindlers?

Of course not.

So why do these society people give money to Churches?

Because they love God and the work of God

We Always SPEND MONEY WITH THOSE WE LOVE.

The Bible talks about a rich man that could not get rid of his money. Why?

Because loved his money

Mark 10

Jesus taught that many people will not enter the Kingdom of God because of money.

For that reason, many people now preach that money is evil and that a good Christian should not have money.

But the truth is different:

God is not against us having money God is against the love of money

As a matter of fact, the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.

I had an aunt that had a cat, but the truth is that she didn't have the cat. The cat was the one that had my aunt.

Why?

Because my aunt would govern her life around the cat

She never left the house before taking care of the cat.

She never went on holidays because of the cat. She would not go out at night because of the cat. She did not have a cat, the cat had my aunt.

It is the same with money.

There are many people that do not have money; beacause the money has them.

That is, the person governs his life always thinking about money.

There are people who only think about money. And even when they have a lot of money, they are never satisfied with what they have. And because of that, they work and work in order to have more and more.

However, they do not enjoy the benefits of what they have.

This is the case of many Portuguese emigrants.

They move to a foreign country in order to make money, therefore, they deprive themselves of many things.

They abstain from eating well, to the point of starving, live in a house with no conditions, never buy furniture, etc., etc, all this in order to save money.

They save the money for one day to return to Portugal, and then have a good house and live well.

But there is a problem

Earning money takes time.

In the meantime children come; go to school and adapt to the country, friends, different customs and habits.

Suddenly the parents think that they have enough money to go back to their homeland and buy a house in Portugal.

The whole family returns. But the friends they had have already died or live somewhere else.

The village or town itself is completely different.

And the children do not understand the habits and customs, they have no friends.

Then big problems develop within the family.

The parents deprived themselves of numerous things for so many years in order to enjoy a wonderful life when they returned to Portugal.

But now that they have returned, nobody is happy and everyone fights at home.

What is the "ROOT of the PROBLEM"? The root is the LOVE OF MONEY.

3 - IS IT TABOO TO TALK ABOUT MONEY in the CHURCH!?!

In many countries it is taboo to talk about money in the churches.

It is as if it were a bad thing that we have to bear but should not talk about. It is like sex — everyone practices it, but it must not be spoken about because it is a necessary sin that has to be tolerated.

Imagine a God that makes us with sexual impulses but says — "...do not look and do not touch..."

It would be a schizophrenic and devious God.

But this is what the churches have been (wrongly) preaching about God.

1- MONEY IS NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD

In many people's minds, being rich and having a lot of money is the opposite of being a Christian.

But money is neither good nor bad.

Money has the color of the heart of the person that uses it.

If the person's heart is bad, then he will use his money to do bad things.

But if the person's heart is good, then his money is good since he will use it to do good things.

2- IF BEING RICH IS A SIN, THEN GOD IS THE GREATEST SINNER

Many churches preach against money, or at least imply that money is a synonym of sin.

But these thoughts are not Biblical.

In fact, if being rich and having money is a sin, then God is the greatest sinner of all.

Why?

Because God is the richest person in the entire Universe

God is not only the owner of all riches, but also the One who created all of these riches.

If being rich and having material goods is a sin, then God is not only the greatest sinner, but also a great tyrant.

Why? Because He would have created the riches only for Himself and would have wanted His children to be poor and miserable

Even we as flawed human beings, would judge such a tyrant and would put him in prison.

Sometimes it is necessary to think this way, in order to keep away the false prejudice and misconceptions that have been imposed on us.

Jesus rightly said that "...you shall know the truth and it shall set you free..."

3- GOD IS GOOD AND THE DEVIL IS EVIL

The truth is this:

- 1- God is good; the devil is evil.
- 2- The devil is the one who came to kill, steal, and destroy; and to bring misery and disgrace to all of mankind.
- 3- But God is good and sent His Son Jesus Christ to nail all the misery and disgrace on the cross, and to give us what He has always had
 - Victory, success, happiness, prosperity, life in Abundance.

- 4- God is not guilty of all the evil things that are happening to the people in this world.
- 5- God was not the One who turned away and abandoned mankind; it was mankind who turned away from God and abandoned Him. Mankind chose their own way and only have problems.
- 6- The solution is for mankind to turn back to God, by abandoning his own ways and choosing God's ways instead.
- 7- No one can get to God except through Jesus, who is the only official link between a perfect God and a sinner.
- 8- We were born in a planet that is cursed and that is infested by demons.
- 9- Only Jesus has the power to free us from all the curses that are on this planet.

GOD IS AGAINST POVERTY, NOT AGAINST RICHES

II Corinthians 8: 9

IF GOD IS SO GOD, WHY IS THERE SO MUCH MISERY? (This is what many people say)

4- GOD IS NOT IN CONTROL

Many people "blame God" of being in control of everything and allowing:

- Children to starve to death
- Families to be destroyed by wars
- Cancer to kill millions of people

This thought that God is in control is WRONG.

If in fact God was in control of everything in the world, He would be a very evil God.

Why? Because being God, for whom nothing is impossible, He would be allowing:

- People to suffer with cancer
- People to suffer with aids
- People to suffer with wars

Even we humans have laws that would put a man in jail for killing, stealing, etc...

Is God really what many preachers teach? Of course not!

God IS NOT IN CONTROL.

God gave the control to Adam and Eve. They "turned away from God". They handed the control to satan.

Jesus said – "The king of this century is satan".

Now God is on the outside.

In order to help humanity, God had to enter the earth legally – through a body.

Therefore God asked the Virgin Mary's body so that Jesus could come to earth.

Usually it is the seed of a man that enters a woman's womb, germinates and bears a child.

But each seed bears according to its species; a bean seed of will bear beans; the seed of a sinner will bear a sinner. Man is a sinner by nature as it comes from our ancestors — Adam and Eve.

Therefore God had to "sow a seed" Himself.

It was the Holy Spirit, that with the Virgin Mary's, authorization of placed a pure seed ,without the nature of sin, into Mary's womb.

The virgin Mary in fact had a child, Jesus, without ever having "known" a man.

This Jesus, who was God, became man, got a passport - the body - to enter this earth. And Jesus came to dethrone the king satan.

That is what Jesus was able to do on the cross of Calvary.

And now, whoever wants to leave "satan's kingdom" and enter the kingdom of God has to:

- Renounce the kingdom of this world
- Submit to the government of God

That way, whoever "enters the kingdom of God" on this earth, is out of the kingdom and dominium of satan.

5- THE ROADSIDES

Being a Christian is walking in the ways of God. It is just like someone driving a car on a road.

You can't drive entirely on the left or on the right side of the road, otherwise you will lose control and suffer an accident.

6- THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD – God is against Money

Some churches have drifted to the left side of the road — Preaching against money and insinuating that money is a synonym of sin.

If being rich is a sin, then God would be the GREATEST SINNER of all. Is that not ridiculous?

7- THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD – Going after Money

There are other churches that have drifted to the right side of the road, preaching false things about money.

It is the case of churches that:

- 1- Charge entrance fees for religious services
- 2- Promise cure in exchange for money
- 3- Say that money strengthens the prayer

See what an aberration – charging for preaching the Gospel.

Even worse is charging a certain amount of money for each person present at the service. It seems unbelievable does it not?

Well, I have received such letters from preachers. Evidently I do not receive them, because that spirit will not enter our Churches.

There are preachers who only preach where they are invited:

- 1-If they are given financial privileges
- 2-If they stay in hotels; demanding swimming pools, sauna...
- 3-If they get the minimum "fee"

That is a true MERCENARY spirit – only working in exchange of benefits, of a salary, etc...

In our Church, we do not pay any guest to come and preach. What we do is give a seed of faith, and it is what God puts in our hearts and not a preestablished amount.

It is also the case of international preachers that hire "agents" to organize evangelical events in exchange for a percentage of the profits of a service.

An internationally known person visited us once.

During many years he had been a blessing to our church. But the last time, I felt something strange was happening.

It was then that he explained to me that he was using the most recent technique of many International Preachers.

It consists of hiring specialised marketing companies to write "letters to a religious public."

This preacher, to my great surprise, explained the details of how these non-Christian companies use all types of letters, e-mail, with Christian objects such as:

- A piece of the Cross of Christ
- A piece of the cloth of Christ
- A bag with "Holy Land" from Jerusalem
- A handkerchief that had been in Mount Sinai

All this to ask for money. And if a person "falls" for the first letter by buying something, they will never let him go.

Using objects of illustrations is Biblical.

However, like everything in life, everything has its limits. And what matters most is the spirit in which we do things.

There are also preachers that only talk about blessings; they only talk about money and the Promises of God.

Whoever hears them gets the impression that the Gospel is all about GETTING RICH, since the preachers say that God wants to makes us prosper.

In these Churches they only talk about how to get a new car, house, jewelry, etc... But they never talk about Sanctification, Repentance, Baptism, etc...

All of these are serious mistakes that have to be denounced because they incur on the "ridiculous" and they are what the Bible calls "mercenaries."

In the last years, many great international ministries left the middle of the "road" (Biblically speaking). With the pretext of the mistakes of the left side of the road, they left the road that is the word of God and went to the right side of the road. It is not in vain that many people are disappointed with these preachers, and for this reason they have turned away from God.

No wonder the Apostle Paul said:

Galatians 1:6-9

- 6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel —
- 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.
- 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.
- 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, <u>if</u> anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed!

Galatians 3:1

10 foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

II Timothy 3:1-2

- 1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
- 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

II Timothy 4:1-3

- 1 I charge you herefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:
- 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
- 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

Many things start well, but slowly and subtlety are deviated to ways with the appearance of God but without God's Seal of Approval.

However the following should be noted -

The MISTAKE that someone might preach DOES NOT invalidate the truth that God speaks.

The truth is that God is a God of Blessings.

Just because someone presents a FALSE PRODUCT, does not mean that the ORIGINAL, GENUINE, and TRUE PRODUCT does not exist.