

FAITH vs FINANCE



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Chapters 37 & 38: The Teresa/Gekko Scale and The Road Toward Poverty* Discussion Sheet

Scriptural Foundation: “²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ... ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” *Matthew 6:25, 31-34 (NIV)*

God’s Instructions: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, 8:13; Matthew 6:25-31

1. In Luther’s terms, what’s your personal sequence of conversion? Head, heart then wallet or heart, wallet then head or just head so far or?

2. Is passive income just for passive Christians?

3. Is Julian taking things too far by aiming to give away most of his family’s material blessings?

4. Share your honest thoughts on how hard it might be for you to watch your net worth decrease and your lifestyle be trimmed back while your peers all kept increasing theirs?

5. Jesus told us very clearly to not worry about our food or drink or clothes. Is there a difference between ‘worrying’ about these things and spending most of our waking hours working to pay our bills and save for our futures?

6. Are you prepared to set up a Gekko/Teresa scale in your life? If so, what is your next level to aim for? eg. 10/90? 30/70? 50/50?

7. Live it Backwards – At your funeral (120 years from now!), what would you like people to say about the way you shared your blessings? What can you commit to doing this week that will help to write that epitaph?

* To be completed after reading chapters 37 & 38 of *HELP! I’ve Been Blessed!* by Julian Archer.

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“When a person prospers, either God gains a partner or the person loses their soul.”