FOUNDATIONS: CERTAINTY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES
LESSON #3

Intro. Tonight is the last class of this series.

1. There is a concern over the economy worldwide
   a. Several years ago our government tried to help the economy with a stimulus package

   - God has His own stimulus package
   - It will not only affect our finances, but it applies to every area of our lives
   - Acts 20:35 is “God’s stimulus package”

Acts 20:35 (NKJV) "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

   - Tonight’s class isn’t about money, or our financial giving, it’s about a life principle
   - God’s stimulus package

2. In the natural realm if we give something away, it’s gone
   a. We have less because we’ve given something away
   b. When it comes to the Christian life, giving is the stimulus for receiving

Luke 6:38 (NLT) Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

   c. This verse has been used time and again in receiving offerings; it’s true for money but also in every area of our lives…when we give we gain
   d. It’s true of love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness
   e. When we give we don’t lose, we gain

   - If we want to live rich, fulfilling lives we have to learn to give
   - It’s one of the secrets to stimulating a sense of certainty in uncertain times
I. WHEN WE GIVE ______________

- Jesus said “It is more blessed to give than to receive”

A. THIS ISN’T A ______________

1. Jesus didn’t make this statement in an attempt to ______________ into giving
   a. It can be difficult for us to understand how it is more blessed to give than to receive
   b. This is hard for us because part of us really does believe it’s a lot more fun to receive than give

B. JESUS WAS GIVING US A RADICAL BUT VERY TRUE PRINCIPLE: IT’S MORE BLESSED TO ______________


Luke 6:32 (NKJV) “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.


Luke 6:36-37 (NKJV)
36 "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.
37 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

- Jesus says, “Be merciful, don’t judge, don’t condemn, forgive…”
- Then right after these verses He says...

Luke 6:38 (NLT) Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

- Whatever area it is in our lives; if we give we gain
- Living is giving- it’s more blessed to give than receive
II. LIVING TO __________

A. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO ________________

1. We live in a _________________

2 Timothy 3:1 (NKJV)  But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

   a. After this warning Paul lists the “perils” of the last days
   b. The first peril he lists is in verse 2

2 Timothy 3:2 (NKJV)  For men will be lovers of themselves.

2. Christianity is a call to be _______________

   a. We make a choice not to follow the world’s pattern of selfishness, self-interest, and self-seeking
   b. To be different, we need to learn to be givers

   • If we’re going to really “live to give” then we’re going to have to be convinced “it is more blessed to give than to receive”

3. Jesus lived to __________

   a. Jesus was a joy-filled kind of person
   b. The Bible gives us the impression that He lived life to the fullest

Hebrews 1:9 (NKJV)  You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

   • Jesus “lived to give”
   • The reason some people are “joy-less” and living less than fulfilled lives is because they haven’t learned this simple spiritual law of “living to give”

B. MAKING THIS PRINCIPLE ________________

   • There are several areas we can begin to practice the principle of giving in
1. We can make it practical in ______________
   a. If we’re going to “live to give” then it means “going the extra mile”
   b. That old saying comes right out of the Bible

Matthew 5:41 (NKJV) "And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

   c. Jews lived under Roman occupation- a Roman officer could ask a Jew to carry something for him for a mile; they’d go just as far as they had to
   d. Jesus said, “go the extra mile”
   e. We are meant to apply this principle in our work
   f. No matter what we do in life, we’re to have the attitude, “This is for the Lord.”

Ephesians 6:5-8 (NKJV)
5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;
6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,
7 with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,
8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

   • This is talking about gaining a sense of certainty
   • “Knowing” or “being certain” that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord

2. We need learn to be better givers in ______________

Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT)
3 Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.
4 Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

   a. What he’s really saying here is think about the needs of others
   b. Look for ways to give
ex. If we as husbands or wives will look more at giving to our spouse than receiving, we’ll actually receive more.

Galatians 6:7-9 (NKJV)

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

c. This is an unalterable law of God; we will reap what we sow

d. We should look for things to compliment our spouses on

Proverbs 25:11 (NKJV) A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

- He’s saying a good word that’s spoken is priceless

Mark Twain: “I can live for two months on one good compliment.”

ex. As husbands and wives we need to be more supportive of each other, smile at each other, laugh together, pray for one another, listen to each other...live to give.

e. Living to give will make every relationship better

- We should make it a part of our lives to regularly pray for each other

2 Timothy 1:3 (NKJV) I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day.

- This is Paul praying for his friend
- We give a great deal to others when we give them our prayers

III. HOW GOD’S STIMULUS PACKAGE ________________

A. IT PAYS OFF IN ________________
1. We feel better about ______________
   a. Givers are just happier people than takers
   b. This is something we must remember

Acts 20:35 (NKJV) "…And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
   c. The “oil of gladness” gets poured on givers

2. Giving will pay off in our relationships with _____________
   a. People generally like givers more than takers

Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV) A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

3. Giving pays off with ________________

Luke 6:35 (NKJV) "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High.

Luke 6:38 (NLT) Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

• Living to give will stimulate God’s blessing in every area of our lives

PRAYER AND CONFESSION: Lord, thank You for blessing me in every area of my life. I won’t squander Your blessing. I choose to be a giver. Help me to conquer my tendency towards selfishness and self interest. I will enjoy the blessing that comes through giving, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #3

I. WHEN WE GIVE __(WE GAIN)
A. THIS ISN'T A __(“CON-JOB”)__

1. Jesus didn’t make this statement in an attempt to __(trick us)__ into giving

B. JESUS WAS GIVING US A RADICAL BUT VERY TRUE PRINCIPLE: IT’S MORE BLESSED TO __(GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE)__

II. LIVING TO __(GIVE)__

A. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO _____(ENJOY LIFE)

1. We live in a __(selfish world)__
2. Christianity is a call to be __(different)__
3. Jesus lived to __(give)__

B. MAKING THIS PRINCIPLE __(PRACTICAL)__

1. We can make it practical in __(our work)__
2. We need learn to be better givers in __(our relationships)__

III. HOW GOD’S STIMULUS PACKAGE __(PAYS OFF)__

A. IT PAYS OFF IN __(THREE WAYS)__

1. We feel better about __(ourselves)__
2. Giving will pay off in our relationships with __(others)__
3. Giving pays off with __(God’s blessing)__