



November 29, 2020

Weekly Newsletter

The Preacher's Post – *Darin Kennedy*

“It's the economy, stupid.”

—James Carville, 1992

This week, our sermon is on giving rest to one another in the midst of our busy work schedules. Work seems so separate from our religious lives. What can God say about work in this modern world? Whenever I read the Old Testament, I am astounded by God's economic plan for the nation of Israel once they entered the Promised Land. Their faith was meant to have real application in their everyday economic life. Here are some of the main principles:

- 1) Rest every Sabbath. No work at all is to be done by anyone, human or animal. Rest a whole year every 7th and 50th year so that the land itself may rest.
- 2) Every 7th and 50th year, all debts are to be cancelled and slaves freed. In addition, in the 50th year, the Year of Jubilees, land is to be given back to whoever sold it.
- 3) When slaves are released, they are to be well-supplied with everything they need to establish their independence.
- 4) There are many more holidays during the year where work is not to be done, celebrating the Day of Atonement, Passover, the Feast of Booths, Pentecost, etc.
- 5) Whenever crops are harvested from fields, vines, or trees, not everything is to be gathered so that the poor can glean for themselves without charge.
- 6) When loaning money, no interest is to be charged to a fellow Israelite. Collateral can be accepted, but if the collateral is necessary to the borrower (like a coat in the winter), the collateral is to be returned before nightfall even if payment has not been made.

7) Accurate weights and measurements are always to be used.

8) The first and best of what you grow or earn must be given to the Lord's tabernacle/temple.

9) Prosperity is based not on business acumen or talent but on faithfulness. The reverse is based on unfaithfulness.

10) These things are very difficult to ask people to do, but God is going to be so overwhelmingly generous that one will not even miss what has been given away.

This economic plan does not fit with any other economic philosophy that the world has ever seen. It is built on God's generosity, trust in God, and generosity toward others, especially toward the most impoverished among the people. It was meant to be a national economy with Israel because they were to be ruled by God the King. While neither our country nor any other country will be ruled completely by such principles, we can still take with us some important principles as the people of God:

1) Do not be controlled by the pursuit of money. Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness, and all the things you need will be given to you as well.

2) Do not be controlled by work. While work is good, make sure you do what is most important. Do not let work define who you are. Rest helps for such self-reflection.

3) Be generous to those less fortunate and to those who work on your behalf.

It might seem that religion and work in our economy are separate issues, but it is in how we work, what we work for, how we treat workers, and what we do with our money that may give us opportunity for the most powerful testimony we give.

Prayer Requests

Sydney Kerley's friend (Aaron Derringer) – passed away last week after a battle with COVID. Aaron leaves behind a wife and 5 young children, **Mark and Flora Swartz's** son (Mark D) – is in the hospital recovering from fluid buildup and infection around a shunt in his brain. He had surgery to remove the shunt and is being monitored while he heals. He will have another surgery to replace the shunt as soon as his body is ready. **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Patricia Lands) – was recently diagnosed with COPD. She is the primary caregiver for her elderly mother and has a lot of responsibility to shoulder through this diagnosis, **Samantha Pollard's** cousin (Ruth) – is recovering from COVID. **UPDATE:** She was released from the COVID floor and is now back in her own room, **Cathy Eldridge** – **UPDATE:** She is currently recovering at home. Please continue to pray for her recovery and health, **Susan Foster** – is recovering from knee replacement surgery, **Pat Kreisel** – is experiencing some back pain and is limited in her mobility, **Larry Sullivan** – is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery, **Joe Harber's** wife (Charlotte) – is suffering from some ongoing health issues, **Hannah Guntert's** grandmother (Wanda Thomason) – has been diagnosed with breast cancer. **UPDATE:** She is currently in the hospital with COVID, **Mitch and Peggy Rush's** granddaughter (a family from East Independence church) – is suffering from a severe head injury. She is 6 years old. She was in a car accident. **UPDATE:** She is able to eat and drink on her own now and is expected to leave rehab facility on Dec 15th, **Stormy Cook's** brother (Ralph) – has been put on a liver transplant list, **Buddy and Sharon Self's** daughter (Lisa Self) – has a blood clot and fluid in her lungs. She is slowing regaining her strength, **Shirley Simmons** – is recovering from open heart surgery, **Kelly Seuferling** – is recovering from breast cancer related surgery, **Flora Swartz's** friend (Joanie Green) – **UPDATE:** She finished chemo! She will go back for scans and checkup in January, **Andy Hester, Joel Morehead, Bruce Keeton, Will Kreisel, Lena Bramlett, Dave Nash, Jurhee Bench**



Saturday, December 5th @ 2PM - Youth Christmas Project

All youth are invited to go on a shopping excursion for 10 underprivileged children.

This year we are adopting 10 underprivileged children and buying them Christmas presents.

We will meet at the building at 2PM. Then we will go shopping for these children, eat dinner together, and come back to the building to wrap the presents.

It's not too late to give money for this project. If you are interested in donating money to buy presents for these children, add "Youth Christmas Project" to the note section of your offering or give through Breeze.

Harvesters

A Huge "Thank You" to everyone that donated to Harvesters for Thanksgiving!!!!

Birthdays: November 29th – December 5th

Paul Walker – 30th

Rick Roberts – 1st

Rebecca Ore – 3rd

Hannah Guntert – 4th

Stephen Couture – 5th

Deanna Morehead – 5th



retro birthday card with bicycle and balloons - Maryia Kryvaltsevich © 123rf.com
The word PRAYER written in wooden type drawer -enterline © 123rf.com
children read a bible on the bed - Volodimir Kalina © 123rf.com
Certain images and/or photos in this presentation are the copyrighted property of 123RF Limited, its contributors or its licensed partners and are being used with permission under the relevant license. These images and/or photos may not be copied or downloaded without permission from 123RF Limited.