

IN THE SWEET SPOT
Series - "It's Time To Make A Deal"
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‡ When we do not turn to God out of _____, we will turn to other gods out of _____.

"The borrower is a servant to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7, NIV).

*"Do not charge interest on loans you make to a fellow Israelite, whether you loan money, food or anything else"
(Deut. 23:19, NLT).*

"When you help the poor you are lending to the Lord – and He pays wonderful interest on your loan!" (Prov. 19:178, TLB).

*"If you refuse to make the loan and the needy man cries out to the Lord, it will be counted against you as a sin. ¹⁰You must lend him what he needs, and don't moan about it either! For the Lord will prosper you in everything you do because of this!
¹¹There will always be some among you who are poor; that is why this commandment is necessary. You must lend to them liberally" (Deut. 15:9b-11, TLB).*

A. WE OVERSPEND BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT . . .

1. MORE THINGS = MORE _____.

"Human desires are like the world of the dead. There is always room for more" (Pr. 27:20, TEV).

"He who loves money shall never have enough. The foolishness of thinking that wealth brings happiness! ¹¹The more you have, the more you spend, right up to the limits of your income. So what is the advantage of wealth – except perhaps to watch it as it runs through your fingers!" (Eccl. 5:10-11, TLB).

2. MORE THINGS = MORE _____.

Jesus said, "Don't be greedy! Owning a lot of things won't make your life safe and secure" (Luke 12:15a, CEV).

"In Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28, ESV).

Jesus said, "Life is not measured by how much you own" (Luke 12:15b, NLT).

3. MORE THINGS = MORE _____.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the greatest and most important commandment. ³⁹The second is like it: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself"
(Matthew 22:37-38, GWT).*

"Let love be your highest goal!" (1 Cor. 14:1a, NLT).

"My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. ⁸The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love – so you can't know Him if you don't love" (1 John 4:7-8, MSG).

*"The rich man thinks of his wealth as an impregnable defense, a high wall of safety. What a dreamer!"
(Proverbs 18:11, TLB).*

"Be wise enough not to wear yourself out trying to get rich. ⁵Your money can be gone in a flash, as if it had grown wings and flown away like an eagle" (Pr. 23:4, GNB).

Jesus said, "When I give you eternal life, you will never perish. No one can snatch or steal or take you from Me, ²⁹Why? Because My Father has given you to Me, and He is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch you from the Father's hand. God is the only sure, guaranteed security in this world" (John 10:27-28, PAR).

"If I put my trust in money, if my happiness depends on wealth . . . it would mean that I have denied the God of heaven" (Job 31:24, 28, TLB).

"Reverence for the Lord gives confidence and security to a man and his family" (Pr. 14:26, GNB).

B. HOW DO WE LIVE **B.I.G.?**:

1. **B** = _____ **FIRST TO THE LORD.**

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops" (Proverbs 3:9, NIV).

"The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives" (Deut. 14:23b, TLB).

† **Every time God gives a _____ in the Bible, He always gives a _____ to go with it.**

"Can a person cheat God? Yet, you are cheating me! "But you ask, 'How are we cheating you?' "When you don't bring a tenth of your income and other contributions. ⁹So a curse is on you" (Malachi 3:8-9a, GWT).

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" (Malachi 3:10, NIV).

"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty" (Proverbs 11:24, NIV).

Jesus said, "To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away" (Matt. 25:29, NLT).

† **We do not give to _____; we give to _____.**

2. **I** = _____ **IN YOURSELF.**

"Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise! ⁷ Though they have no prince or governor or ruler to make them work, ⁸ they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter" (Proverbs 6:6-8, NLT).

BENEFITS THAT COME FROM DOING THIS:

- (i) **We learn to live with _____ than we _____.**
(ii) **We learn to be motivated by _____ and less by _____.**

"Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have" (Eccl. 6:9a, NLT).

3. **G** = _____ **BY ON THE REST OF THE 80%.**

"Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper" (Pr. 13:4, NLT).

"Plan carefully and you will have plenty; if you act too quickly you will never have enough" (Pr. 21:5, TEV).

"Stupid people spend their money as fast as they get it" (Pr. 21:20b, TEV).

Jesus said, "Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16b, NKJV).