

Thriftiness

Thriftiness is wisely managing the wealth of resources available to you to ensure an economical outcome.

My parents grew up in the depression and as each would tell you, that DEFINITELY teaches you to be thrifty!! When your resources are limited, you get creative on how to S-T-R-E-T-C-H things out!

In our society today we are enjoying a good economy (relatively speaking) where many people have an abundance of things (especially compared to the depression!). We have become a “disposable” society where we easily get rid of things we don’t want anymore and buy new ones. With the ease of obtaining credit cards, I think we have lost the art of being “thrifty”. My parents always saved and paid cash for things and did without until they could do so. That is unheard of now a day.

This time of year especially, I think our character trait of thriftiness is challenged the most. With advertisers and stores clamoring for our money, pulling on our heartstrings, and credit cards coming in the mail DAILY, along with commercials telling us we are out of date and slowing things down if we pay cash, and, it is VERY easy to over spend on those we love.

So which is the better way to live? We know the depression was full of hardships though the hardships taught the value of things. Now we get things more easily but the consumer debt of our nation and the bankruptcy rate of individuals are quickly on the rise.

What would God say?

I was reading in Matthew 25:14-30 the Parable of the Talents and it seemed to me that God was showing what we should do. In this parable Jesus tells of 3 servants who get monies to care for their master of varying amounts. The first 2 invested and made more money but the 3rd was concerned more for himself than his master and hid it. Though the original amount was still there, the master was not pleased that more was not made. To hoard things and keep them to ourselves displeases God. God desires to bless us abundantly. In the same way He desires for us not to squander what He gives us but to use what He gives us in a wise manner that will produce more.

We can easily apply that to our finances which says don’t spend everything you make but invest some of your money to make more money with it (whether by watching for sales, comparing prices, or with the bank, stocks or bonds, etc).

Being thrifty doesn’t only apply to our finances, though that may be the first area we think of when reflecting on that word. But I believe God wants us also to be thrifty with the gifts and talents He gives us as well. How do you wisely manage the talents He gives us? How about taking lessons to draw out that giftedness? How about sharing that gift with others (ex. music, drawing, entertaining, compassion for others, etc.) so they are blessed as well with your giftedness? How about making gifts instead of buying them? Then the blessings multiply – and isn’t that a wonderful “economical outcome”?!

Throughout this season and into the New Year take some time and see if you are being “thrifty” (and not just with your car rentals☺!) in your finances and with your talents, and

in all areas. Choose to develop the character trait of thriftiness and watch the dividends in your life pay off☺!!!

May good investments (of ALL kinds) and thriftiness bless your Christmas and New Year☺!!!