



The New Wine of Prosperity (Part 2)
(Driving Toward Your Financial Destination, Matthew 7:7-19, NIV)

February 14, 2021

Review Luke 14:28-30: “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, ‘This person began to build and was not able to finish.’

Statement: Last time we touched on the importance of picking a financial destination and focusing on the truth about your financial condition. I highlighted the fact that the average American has \$3,500.00 in savings. Also, the average retirement income in 2019 was \$23,292 for Whites, compared to \$16,863 for Blacks and \$13,560 for Latinx. (<https://www.investopedia.com/retirement-savings-by-race-5086962>)

Series Advice: If you want to resolve your long-term financial issues, four things will be helpful

1. **Pick** a Financial Destination (Know where you want to go financially?)
2. **Drive Toward** Your Financial Destination (What road are you on financially?)
3. **Be Comfortable** With Your Financial Destination
4. **Teach** Your Family To Set a Financial Destination Strategy

Big Question for Today: Are you driving toward a good financial destination?

I. Four Things to Remember While Driving To Your Financial Destination
(Everyone is on the way somewhere financially)

1. Remember to Pick a Specific Destination (Name an amount; ask, seek and knock)

- **Matthew 7:7** “Ask and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will find; **knock** and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

2. Remember God’s Desire Is to Do You Well (cp. John 10:10)

- 9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!** 12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

3. Remember You Will Be in The Minority When You Decide to Be Different

- 13 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

4. Remember People Have the Ability to Deceive You

- 15 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18



- A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

II. Wrong Assumptions Can Affect A Positive Financial Destination

Statement: Christian's are often trained to resist entrepreneurial prosperity because of conflicting theological messages. It is not always the preacher's intent to leave people with the wrong assumption. Wealth resistance seems to be embedded in the culture and never discussed. Preaching to people you never personally talk to can cause a number of cultural misperceptions to occur. Sometimes they hear a message but do not know how to balance a conflicting concept.

- A. The Message: We are told not to seek treasures on earth (Matthew 6:18-21)
 - The Conflict: We are told to give, and it will be given to us (Luke 6:38)
- B. The Message: We are told to trust the lord and he will direct us (Proverbs 3:6)
 - The Conflict: We are told to work out our salvation and to sow (Philippians 2:12, Galatians 6:7)

Question: How did wrong assumptions affect my wealth development?

Answer: I was distracted by a narrow Hermeneutic, my own sin, cultural theology, and the misguided influences around me. In my efforts to be spiritually connected to God I became disconnected from building wealth. This led to seasons of economic distress that could have been avoided if wealth building and balance were embraced.

III. What to Remember When You Reach Your Financial Destination

1. **The Lord's Promise to Provide** (Deuteronomy 8:7–10, (New Revised Standard Version):
 - 7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, 9 a land **where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing**, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. 10 You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.
 2. **The Lord's Promise to The Faithful** (Deuteronomy 8:11–14, (New Revised Standard Version)
 - 11 Take care that you **do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments**, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. 12 When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, 14 then **do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**
1. Do not forget your relationship with the Lord (v11)
 2. Do not forget the Lord's instructions (v11)
 3. Do not forget and exalt yourself (v14)
 4. Do not forget who brought you out of bondage (v14)



Next Time: Be Comfortable With Your Financial Destination (What scares you about financial prosperity?)

1 Timothy 5:17–18 (NIV): 18 For Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”