

Title: Set Your House In Order: Money

*"Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live."* Isaiah 38:1. As I think about setting my house in order, money comes to mind. I don't know if that was the case for Hezekiah, but I'm sure it is for many, including me. Money is an interesting topic. It can create a variety of responses. Nikki and I are trying to talk to Joshua as much as we can about money.

Growing up, I don't recall many conversations about money with my dad. Looking back, those would have been great conversations to have. Maybe you can relate. The good news is that the Bible gives us so much wisdom when it comes to our finances. Consider a few of the following passages. What can we learn from them?

*"Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine."* Proverbs 3:8-9

*"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave."* Proverbs 22:7

*"Prepare your work outside and make it ready for yourself in the field; Afterwards, then, build your house."* Proverbs 24:27

*"Know well the condition of your flocks, and pay attention to your herds; For riches are not forever, nor does a crown endure to all generations."* Proverbs 27:23-24

*"Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance...Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine."* Genesis 41:34,36

Will we listen to God's wisdom? I know I haven't at times! For Nikki, and me one of the biggest challenges we have had in our marriage has been with credit cards. We have lived Proverbs 22:7 and know it well. After the stress and arguments produced by our reckless spending, we've learned we can't handle credit cards. Therefore, we don't have any credit cards. When we finally made this

decision a few years ago, it was scary, but worth it. It forced us to communicate better and to become more intentional about what we're doing with our money. Some people can handle credit cards. It's a personal decision. Wisdom is required and counting the cost will be critical. I still feel inadequate talking about money, when I consider mistakes I've made. But like other mistakes, we learn and live. We keep listening to God's word!

As Christians, the fruit of the Spirit is self-control, [Galatians 5:22-23](#). This includes our finances. This year has reminded us how life can change in an instant. Therefore, it's critical we have our finances in order.

- Benjamin Lee