

## **“Face Palm Follies” (2)**

**“Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 2:12)**

### **Financial Failure (Version 1 - Destitution)**

**Job 1:20-21 – <sup>20</sup> “Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. <sup>21</sup> And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.’”**

**Matthew 8:20 – “And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’”**

**Philippians 3:8 – “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”**

**2 Corinthians 6:10 – “...as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.”**

### **Financial Failure (Version 2 - Deception)**

**Matthew 26:14-16 – <sup>14</sup> “Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, ‘What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?’ And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.”**

**Matthew 27:3-5 – <sup>3</sup> “Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, <sup>4</sup> saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ They said, ‘What is that to us? See to it yourself.’ <sup>5</sup> And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.”**

**1 Timothy 6:9-10** – <sup>9</sup> “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”

**Mark 4:19** – <sup>19</sup> “but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.”

### **To Hedge Against Financial Failure:**

#### **(1) Keep the Lord First**

**Matthew 6:24** – “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

**Proverbs 3:9-10** – <sup>9</sup> “Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.”

#### **(2) Pace Yourself**

**Proverbs 23:4-5** – <sup>4</sup> “Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. <sup>5</sup> When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.”

**Proverbs 13:11** – “Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.”

**Proverbs 28:20, 22** – <sup>20</sup> “A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished. <sup>22</sup> A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.”

#### **(3) Mitigate Your Risk**

**Luke 16:9** – “And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”

**Ecclesiastes 5:13** – “There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)