*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

Luke 6:34-35 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. (35) But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. (KJV)

I am offering some Godly advice today on how to handle financial matters, not only with those outside the body of Christ but when dealing with those within. I have seen relationships shattered, obliterated and dissolved over money matters; when if one really considers it, it is petty and trivial concerning eternal spiritual matters. When dealing with finances I would recommend that instead of loaning money, just offer it out when the Lord asks you to. I would also recommend that you consider it gone; whether or not it ever comes back, leave it be. If the person that you gave it to made a commitment concerning paying back the finances that is on them, and something left between them and the Lord to deal with. If in the future the same person comes back and desires more help in this area, then it is something that you give a simple yea or nay answer to.

Psalms 24:1-2 The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. (2) For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. (KJV)

When you really get down to the nitty gritty of things everything is actually the Lord’s anyways; we are just stewards of what we have been given, including finances. So when dealing with people and especially those within the body of Christ then their dealings are between them and God, you are just the middle man. I say this because I have seen things get misconstrued or people hold grudges over others claiming that they got shortchanged or in their mind they are owed something. You are just a steward and once you pray about a situation and give help to someone financially, it is best to cast it upon the Lord and leave it with Him.

Acts 20:32-35 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. (33) I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. (34) Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. (35) I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought

to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. (KJV)

Actually, when you really get down to it the Bible says that you are more blessed when you give than when you are on the receiving end. Paul did not preach or teach for money, as he was not a hireling; rather he did it unto God from the heart.

Matthew 6:12-15 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (14) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: (15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (KJV)

You may have been shortchanged concerning the area of finances by people; however, God supplies all our need and will never leave you shorthanded. So consider forgiving, and then if something comes back your way that may have been owed or pledged from the past consider that person blessed that chose to give instead of just receiving only.