

# **GATHER UP THE FRAGMENTS**

The Secret to Prosperity



*Saving the*  
**CRUMBS.**



AudioVerse.org

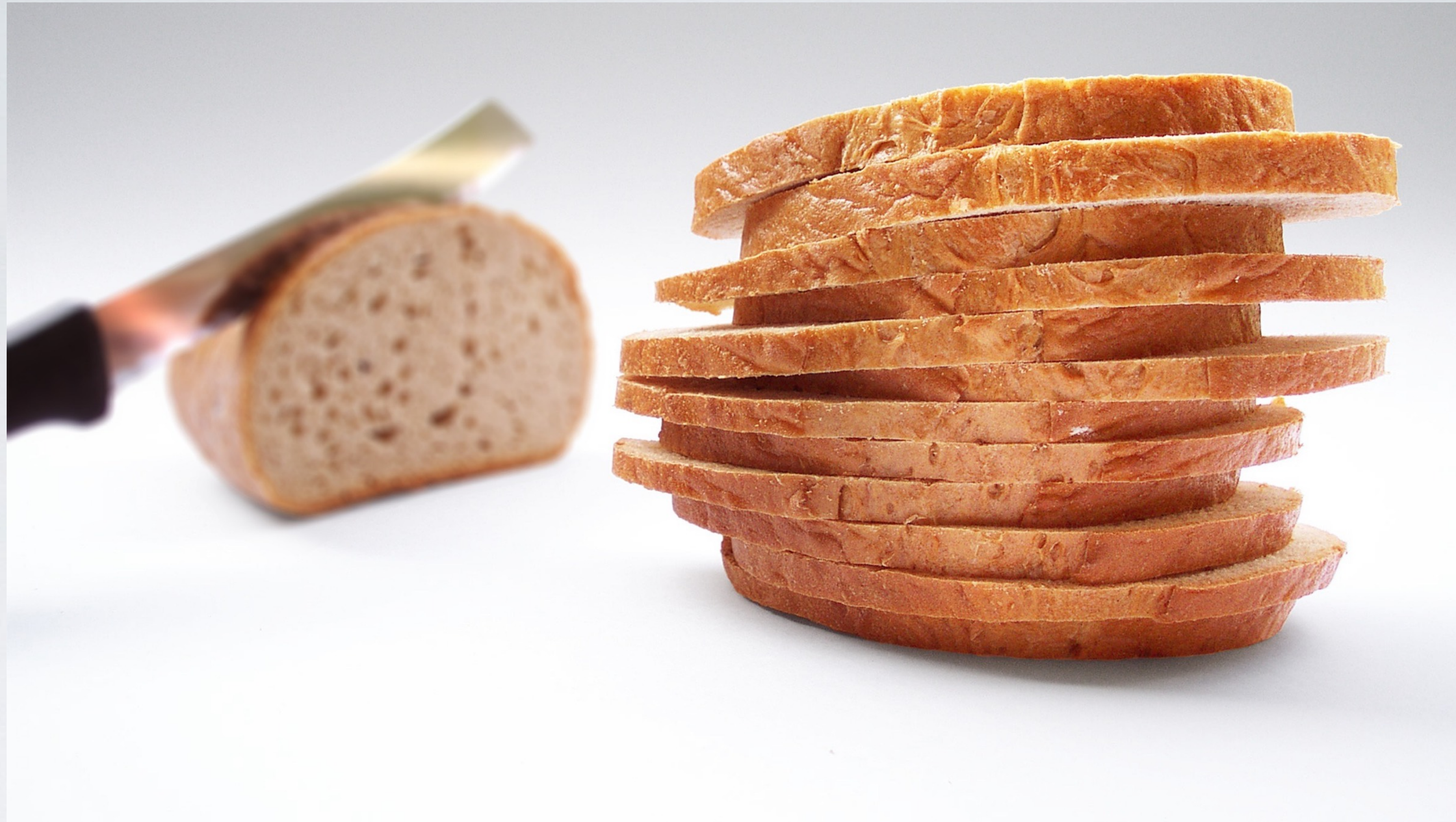


But He who had all the resources of infinite power at His command said, "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

These words meant more than putting the bread into the baskets... **Nothing is to be wasted. We are to let slip no temporal advantage.**

—Desire of Ages 368.1





A CRUMB-SAVING MINDSET





$$\$5.25 \times 10 = \$52.50$$





$$\$5.25 \times 10 = \$52.50$$

$$\$5.25 \times 16 = \$84.00$$



NEED. MORE. MONEY!!!



# THE NARRATIVE ON WEALTH

“It’s what everybody does!”







# THE NARRATIVE ON WEALTH

Happiness = Consumption

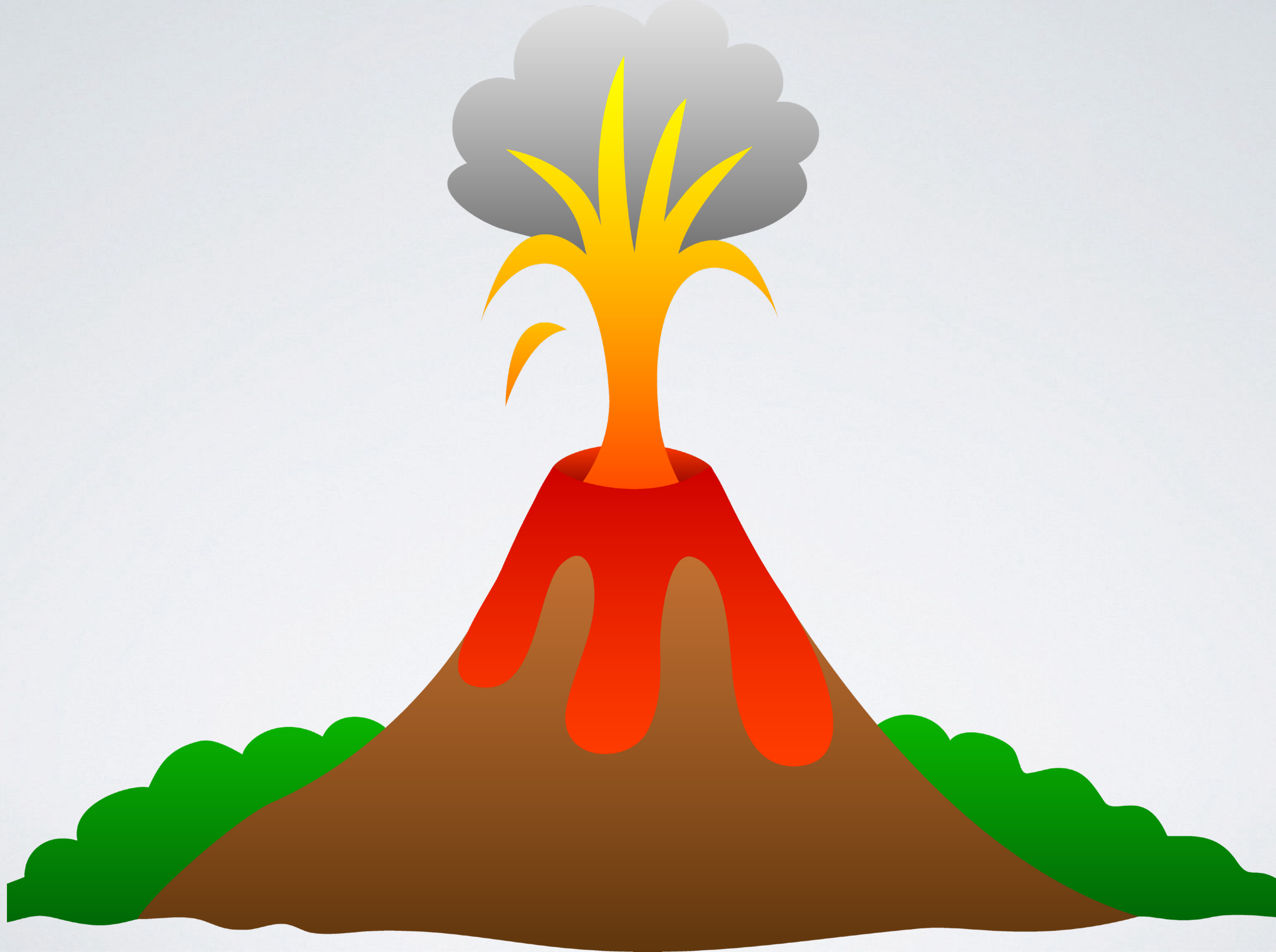


# THE NARRATIVE ON WEALTH

- “I’ll be happy once I take that vacation/ buy that car/eat at fancy restaurant.”
- “Look at all the nice things my friends on Facebook have! I deserve them too!”
- “The cost of living is so high, life is so difficult! If only I was rich...”
- “It’s other people’s fault I can’t get ahead...”















# JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

Richest American of all time.

You live a better life than him.



WE ARE THE **WEALTHIEST** YET  
MOST **WASTEFUL** GENERATION  
THAT EVER WALKED THE EARTH.



“We buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like.”

–Dave Ramsey



# BUST THE MYTH!

- Stop accepting society's narrative about money.
- Stop associating happiness with consumption.
- Stop believing that we are the financial victim.
- Stop living beyond our means.
- Stop worrying about what others may think of us.



# BETHE CHANGE!

- Start taking ownership of our own financial issues.
- Start being intentional about where our money goes.
- Start gathering the fragments and saving the crumbs.
- Dare to be “peculiar”!



# LEARN TO BE CONTENT

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation **I am to be content.**

I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**

—Philippians 4:11-13 ESV



SO HOW MUCH DO I NEED  
TO EARN TO BE WEALTHY?



# HOW IS WEALTH MEASURED?

$$\text{Assets} - \text{Liabilities} = \text{Net Worth}$$



# HOW IS WEALTH MEASURED?

$$\text{Assets} - \text{Liabilities} = \text{Net Worth}$$

## Assets (OWN)

Cash

Investments

Properties

Vehicles

## Liabilities (OWE)

Student Loans

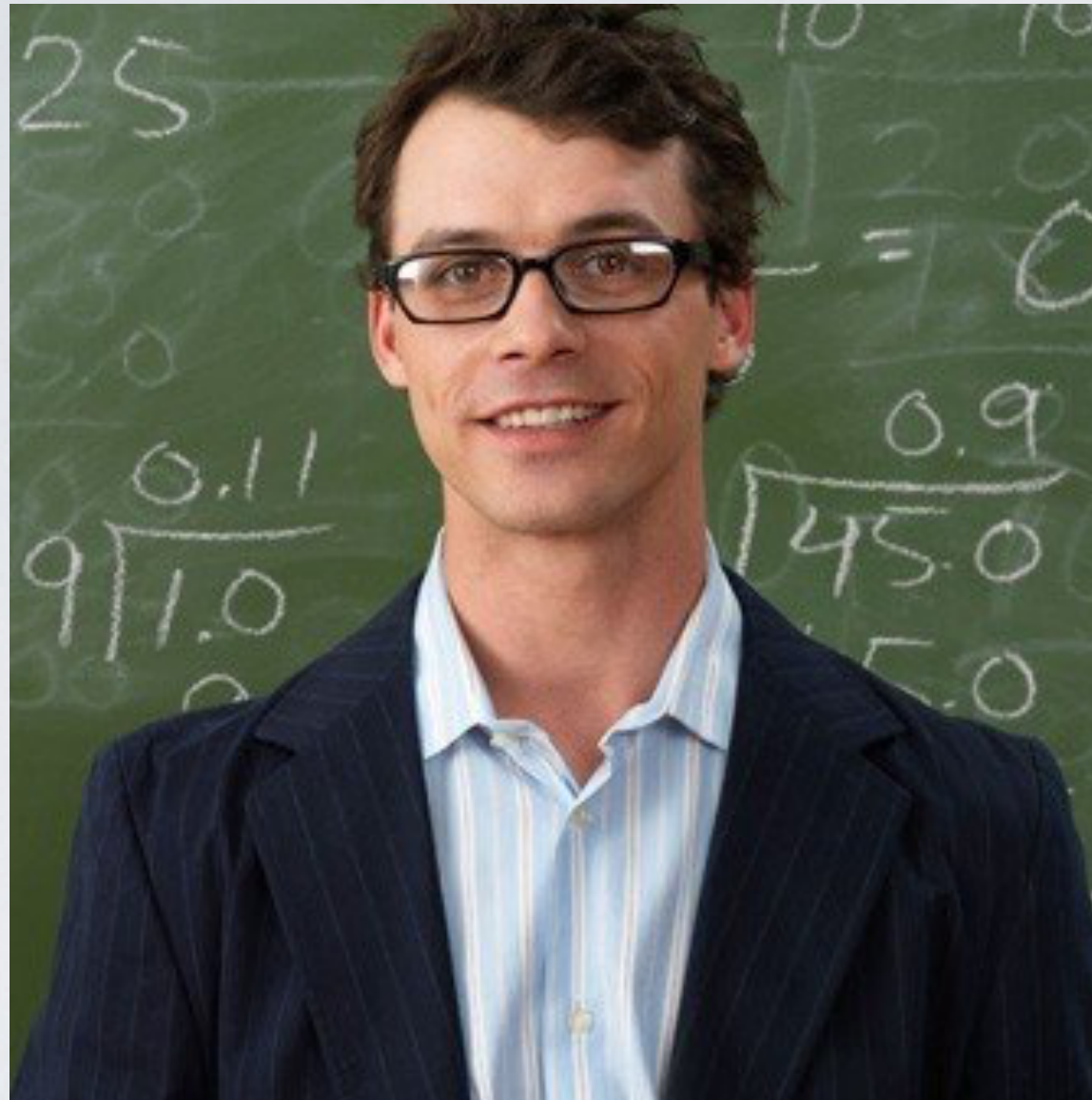
Credit Cards

Car Notes

Mortgages



# WHO'S WEALTHIER?



**Trey**  
Teacher

**Earns:** \$50,000/year

**House:** \$200,000

**Car:** 2011 Toyota Camry



**Don**  
Doctor

**Earns:** \$200,000/year

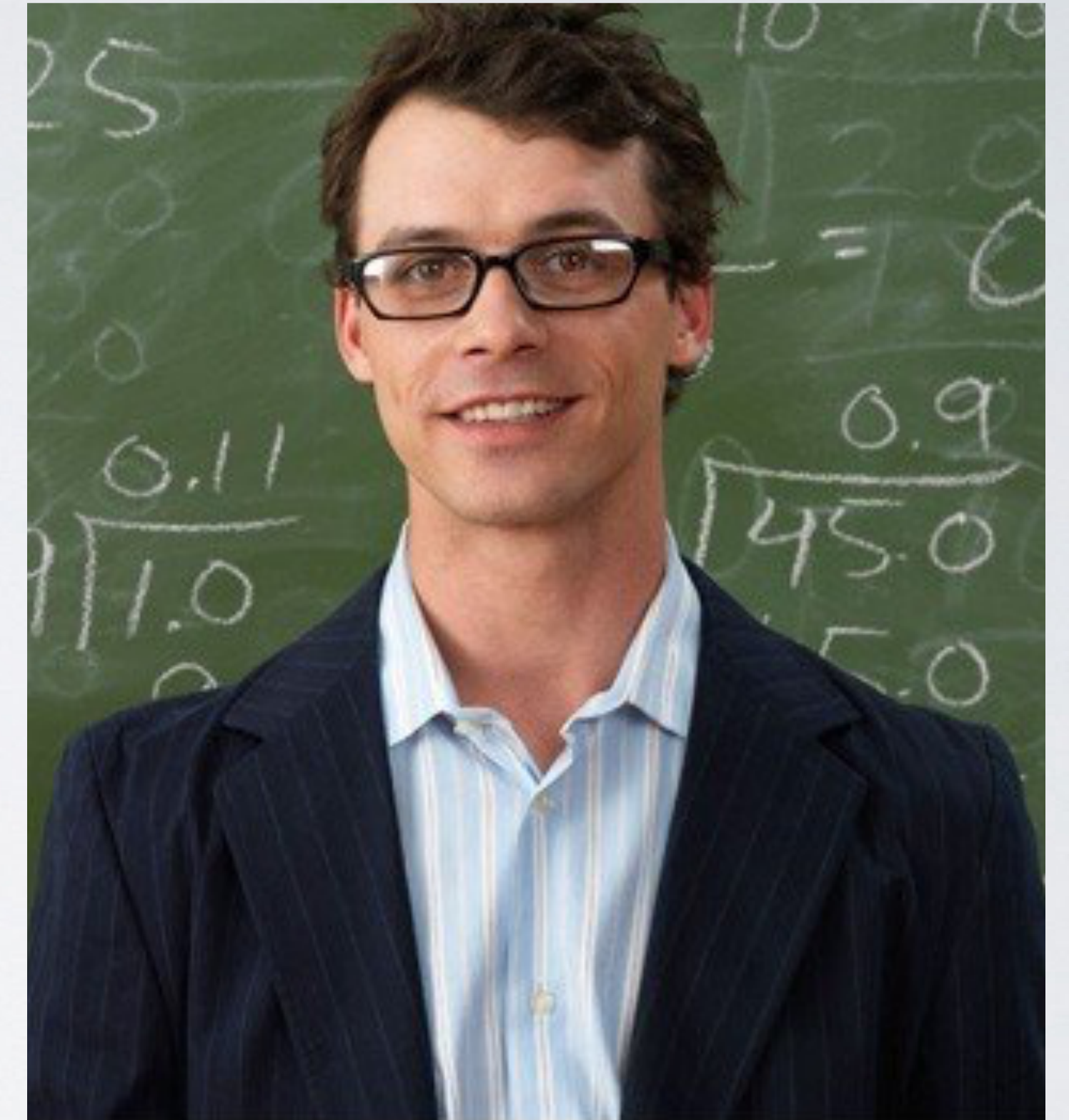
**House:** \$800,000

**Car:** 2021 BMW 7 Series



# TEACHER TREY BALANCE SHEET

<b>Assets</b>		<b>\$558,500</b>
Cash	\$12,500	
Home	\$200,000	
Vehicles	\$6,000	
Retirement	\$340,000	
<b>Liabilities</b>		<b>\$0</b>
Mortgage	\$0	
Car Loans	\$0	
Student Loans	\$0	
Credit Card	\$0	
<b>Net Worth</b>		<b>\$558,500</b>



\$50,000/year



# DOCTOR DON BALANCE SHEET

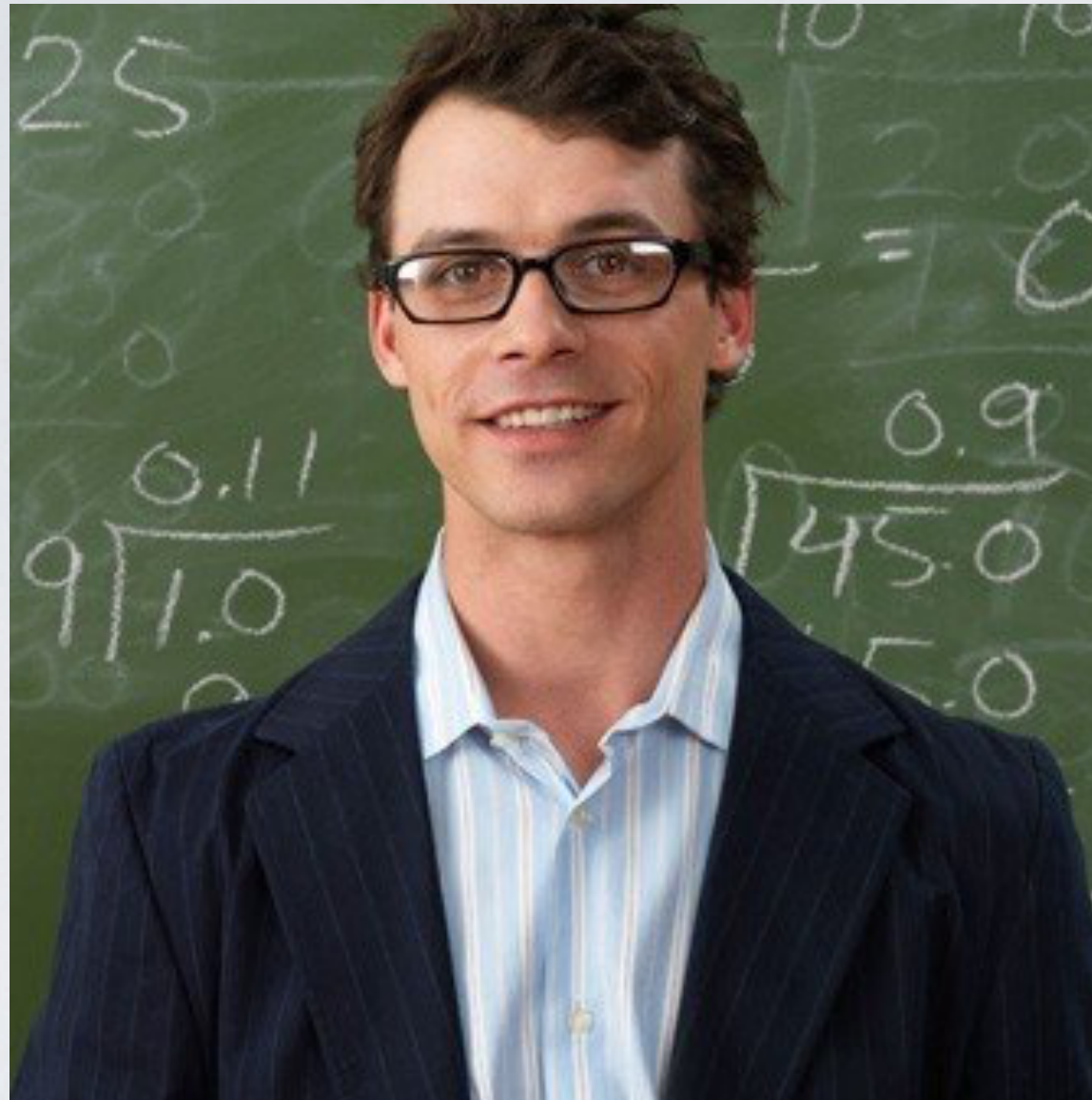
<b>Assets</b>		<b>\$885,000</b>
Cash	\$5,000	
Home	\$800,000	
Vehicles	\$80,000	
Retirement	\$0	
<b>Liabilities</b>		<b>\$982,000</b>
Mortgage	\$640,000	
Car Loans	\$72,000	
Student Loans	\$250,000	
Credit Card	\$20,000	
<b>Net Worth</b>		<b>-\$97,000</b>



\$200,000/year



# WHO'S WEALTHIER?



**Trey**  
Teacher

**Earns:** \$50,000/year  
**Net Worth:** \$558,500



**Don**  
Doctor

**Earns:** \$200,000/year  
**Net Worth:** -\$97,000



# WHO WOULD YOU RATHER BE?



**Trey**  
Teacher

**Positive Net Worth**  
**He's the owner**



**Don**  
Doctor

**Negative Net Worth**  
**The bank's the owner**



INCOME  $\neq$  WEALTH  
SPENDING  $\neq$  WEALTH



# INCOME $\neq$ WEALTH

- Households with incomes of \$75-100,000.
- 55% saved nothing in 2012.
- 16% spent more than they earned, and went further into debt.
- 20% would go into months of debt if there was a \$400 emergency.

–“Even the Upper Middle Class Struggles to Save Money,” Federal Reserve Report  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/bw/articles/2014-08-12/only-45-percent-of-upper-middle-class-households-are-saving-money>



# SPENDING $\neq$ WEALTH

- Whether an average-income or upper-income household, teens still spend about **40% of their budget on fashion.**
- Teens will make **two trips to a restaurant** for every **one trip they make to a gas station.**

–“Taking Stock With Teens: A Collaborative Consumer Insights Project. Fall 2015” by PiperJaffray



Wealth is determined not by how much  
you **EARN or SPEND**, but by how  
much you **KEEP**.



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A person with a **BIG** paycheck can have a **LOW** net worth.



Wealth is determined not by how much you **EARN or SPEND**, but by how much you **KEEP**.

A person with a **BIG** paycheck can have a **LOW** net worth.

A person with a **SMALL** paycheck can still have a **HIGH** net worth.



# MILLIONAIRES DON'T HAVE TO EARN MILLION DOLLAR SALARIES



**Warren Buffett**

Salary: \$100,000/year

Net Worth: \$107 Billion



# MILLIONAIRES DON'T HAVE TO EARN MILLION DOLLAR SALARIES



**Warren Buffett**

Salary: \$100,000/year

Net Worth: \$107 Billion



**Athletes**

Salary: \$10 million/year

Net Worth: ?????



“By the time they have been retired for two years,  
**78% of former NFL players have gone bankrupt or are under financial stress**  
because of joblessness or divorce.”

“Within five years of retirement, an **estimated 60% of former NBA players are broke.**”

–“How (and Why) Athletes Go Broke,” Sports Illustrated, 2009



# QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Are we buying consumables that decrease in value, or are we buying assets that increase in value?
- Are we spending everything we make each month or are we saving and investing?
- Do we have debt that cancels out our assets on our balance sheet?
- Do we OWE more than we OWN?



I was shown that you, my brother and sister, have much to learn. **You have not lived within your means. You have not learned to economize. If you earn high wages, you do not know how to make it go as far as possible.** You consult taste or appetite instead of prudence. At times you expend money for a quality of food in which your brethren cannot afford to indulge. **Dollars slip from your pocket very easily.**

–Counsels on Stewardship 249.4



WHAT ARE WE SAVING FOR?



# MONEY: A TOOL WITH ONLY 3 FUNCTIONS



- **To Spend** on Current Needs or Wants
- **To Save** for Future Needs or Wants
- **To Give** Away



# WHAT ARE WE SAVING FOR?

- **For Future Needs:**

- Car
- College
- House
- Wedding
- Retirement
- Big purchases, etc.

- **To Give Away:**

- Once we reach our savings goals, the surplus goes to God.
- Saving with no goal is hoarding, like the Rich Fool (Luke 12:19)



ALSO...

**For Freedom.**



WHAT ARE WE SAVING FOR?

**Freedom:**

To Serve

To Share

To Give



“Money is a very excellent servant but a terrible master.”

–PT Barnum



# ISN'T FRUGAL LIVING DEPRIVATION?

I want to enjoy life!



# WHAT'S IT LIKE?

- Hardly ever eat out
- No TV or entertainment subscriptions
- Used (but reliable!) car
- No expensive family trips to Disneyland
- A simple life without the trappings of luxury



# WHAT'S IT LIKE?

- Freedom from the stress of slavery to lenders.
- Freedom for my wife to stay home with our kids.
- Freedom to serve the Lord in ministry without worrying about pay.
- Freedom to give generously to God's work.
- Freedom from society's expectations of how I ought to live my life.



WHAT'S IT LIKE?







# THE TEDDY BEAR LADY

Gladys Holm





\$18 MILLION USD

Left to the Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago



# TEDDY BEAR LADY SAVES THE CRUMBS

- She didn't accept the narrative that she was "poor" or that she needed to buy lots of junk to be happy.
- She invested regularly, methodically throughout her career. Small, regular effort over a long period of time yield big results.
- Small income, large net worth.
- She saved in order to give.
- She gathered up her fragments.





# BRING JESUS OUR LOAVES & FISHES

He can still multiply them



# **GATHER UP THE FRAGMENTS**

The Secret to Prosperity