Living Abundantly in Difficult Financial Times

The Road to *Almost Home*

Your Personal Peace Plan

*Presented by*

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*Man to Man, October 31, 2014*
God wants you to live abundantly. In the parable of the Good Shepherd, Jesus said:

...I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come out and go in and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they(you!)might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. *John 10:7-12*

God wants you to find pasture, to live an abundant life of meaning and purpose. What does Jesus mean by “abundance”?
abundance

noun

1. an extremely plentiful or over sufficient quantity or supply: 
   *an abundance of grain.*

2. overflowing fullness: 
   *abundance of the heart.*

3. affluence; wealth: 
   *the enjoyment of abundance.*

*(Dictionary.com)*

Of the 3 definitions, which one best describes God’s plan for you?
Redefining Abundance

How many people do you know who are gerbils on a wheel...a never-ending quest to “get ahead”? 

Too much debt, outgo that exceeds income and an upkeep that will be their downfall...a frantic rat race...and a feeling that only a rat will win!
Rule #1—Abundance is not about money!

Catechism of the Catholic Church

2536: The tenth commandment forbids *greed* and the desire to amass earthly goods without limit. It forbids *avarice* arising from a passion for riches and their attendant power. It also forbids the desire to commit injustice by harming our neighbor in his temporal goods.

2547: The Lord grieves over the rich, because they find their consolation in the abundance of goods. “Let the proud seek and love earthly kingdoms, but blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.” Abandonment to the providence of the Father in heaven frees us from anxiety about tomorrow. Trust in God is a preparation for the blessedness of the poor. They shall see God.
Rule #1—Abundance is not about money!

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2548: Desire for true happiness frees man from his immoderate attachment to the goods of this world so that he can find his fulfillment in the vision and beatitude of God. “The promise [of seeing God] surpasses all beatitude.... In Scripture, to see is to possess.... Whoever sees God has obtained all the goods of which he can conceive.”

2556: Detachment from riches is necessary for entering the Kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are the poor in spirit.”
Finding Riches in Zimbabwe

“My conviction is that “contentment” in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in is a highly underrated path to abundant living”—Mitch Anthony, author of The New Retirementality, speaker, financial life planning coach
True Abundance is Measured by *Intangibles*

A sense of *Appreciation*...the apostles, the saints, thanked God constantly for blessings, even in the midst of material deprivation and suffering.

What do you appreciate? Do you see the beauty in God’s creations?
A Sense of Humility

My son, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find mercy in the sight of God. For great is the power of the Lord; by the humble he is glorified. *Sirach 3:17-19*

Our human understanding, which shares in the light of the divine intellect, can understand what God tells us by means of his creation, though not without great effort and only in a spirit of humility and respect before the Creator and his work. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 153*

Consider...*The creator of the universe, our creator, took human form and allowed His own creation to hang Him on cross! This is the ultimate act of humility!*
A Sense of Love

God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. *First Corinthians 12:4-8*

*When you give of time, talent, and treasure to sustain your family, to help a friend or stranger, to support our church, to grow a ministry... this is the greatest form of love, sacrificial love!*
A Sense of *Self-Worth*

But if any man does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.  *1 Timothy 5:8*

In your role as a man, son, brother, father, husband, breadwinner, grandfather, leader, example...how do you measure up in terms of fiscal, physical, and spiritual fitness?

If you died today, what is left undone?
4 Questions

1. You have enough money to take care of all of your needs. How will you live your life, and will you change anything?

2. A doctor tells you that you have only 5 to 10 years left to live. What will you do in the time you have remaining?

3. You learn you have 24 hours to live. Ask yourself: What did I miss? Who did I not get to be? What did I not get to do? What circles need to be closed? Hurts to be healed?

4. With 24 hours to live, you write a letter to your spouse, children, grandchildren. What will you tell them?
A Sense of *Sharing and Caring*

In his use of things man should regard the external goods he legitimately owns not merely as exclusive to himself but common to others also, in the sense that they can benefit others as well as himself." The ownership of any property makes its holder a steward of Providence, with the task of making it fruitful and communicating its benefits to others, first of all his family. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2404*
Bear one another’s burdens [serve one another through love], and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of faith [doing good has a universal object, but the local community makes specific the reality of those to be served]. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians 6:2,9-10. Notes from The Catholic Study Bible, New American Bible
A Sense of *Happiness and Hope*

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord, and I will change your lot. *The Book of Jeremiah* 29:11-14

If we will walk humbly with our God, He will lead us by the hand to exactly who and what we need, to those people, things, and experiences He has designed and intended for us, and this alone will be the cause of our deep fulfillment and happiness.” — Matthew Kelly, *Rediscovering Catholicism: Journeying Toward Our Spiritual North Star*
Dan Sullivan, The Strategic Coach, urges his pupils to “always make your future bigger than your past.” If you have faith and believe in an afterlife in the presence of God, your future is bigger than your past—even on the day you die! The greatest success you can ever hope for is to hear, “Well done, my good and faithful servant!” —Lewis Walker blog, The Dimensions of Independence, July 3, 2014
A Sense of **Fulfillment**

Many people falsely believe that if you want to be holy, you are not allowed to enjoy life...Holiness brings us to life. It refines every human ability. Holiness doesn't dampen our emotions; it elevates them. Those who respond to God's call to holiness are the most joyful people in history. They have a richer, more abundant experience of life, and they love more deeply than most people can every imagine. They enjoy life, all of life.” — *Matthew Kelly*, *Rediscover Catholicism*

I cannot believe that the purpose of life is to be happy. I think the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be compassionate. It is, above all to matter, to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all. — *Leo Rosten*, writer, humorist
Questions for Discussion

1. Matthew Kelly urges you to see challenges in a new light, a call from the Holy Spirit to elevate and energize you to pursue the highest values of the human spirit and become the best version of yourself you can be. What will you do going forward to live a life of meaning and true abundance?

2. How does your definition of abundance play into stewardship? Are you deploying your human capital assets, time and talents, with the same care and focus given to financial assets?
Questions for Discussion (Continued)

3. If God asked you to work with Saint Peter at the Pearly Gates to devise a *Net Worth Statement* as an entry form to Heaven, what questions would you ask?

4. Don’t answer this question in the discussion. Just think about it...perhaps for an hour in Adoration: You are asked to write your own obituary. What will you say about your life? Will that be your true Net Worth Statement?