

March 20/21, 2010
His Pain Our Gain Part I

Being deeply in debt is no laughing matter! You feel fearful, frustrated and fight with hopelessness and despair. Your future feels imprisoned by your past and present debts.

Proverbs 22:7 – “The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower becomes the lender’s slave.”

One of life's best feelings is being able to completely pay off or to be released from your outstanding debt. You feel free and it gives you a whole new lease on life.

Leviticus 25:9-11

Debt is not limited to money. You can be in deep debt emotionally, morally, relationally, socially and even spiritually. You can be bankrupt in any of these ways even when you don't see how bankrupt you are.

Luke 7:36-50

Both the Pharisee and the woman were hopelessly in debt to a holy God because of their sin. Only the woman experienced the joy of having her debt paid in full!

All of us were hopelessly in debt to God because of our sins. No amount of good deeds could pay the debts our sin had accrued. That's why God, who saw us hopelessly struggling in our debt, sent his own Son to pay with his own blood the debt payment we could never pay. *Isaiah 53:5-6; Romans 3:23-25, Ephesians 2:3-9*

His Pain...My Gain Truths

1) I am completely clean and considered righteous before a Perfect and Holy God.

1 John 1:5-9; Hebrews 8:12; Romans 5:8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:21

2) I am made complete through my union with Him.

Colossians 2:9-15; Romans 8:1

3) I have confidence to come to God for all I need.

Ephesians 2:13; 1 John 4:18; Romans 8:15-17; Hebrews 4:16

Christ will work with us to redeem us from every kind of indebtedness and slavery we are still in. He cares that much about every debt in our lives.

Psalm 40:1-3

I am free to share the riches of what Christ has done for me by paying in full the needs of others. That gives them a free sample of what I have received in Christ.

Matthew 10:8b – “Freely you received, freely give.”

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Share a time God helped you pay off a big debt. What debts are you trying to pay now? Have you ever thought about debt being more than financial?
- 2) Study Luke 7:36-50. Which person in the story do you most honestly relate to? What is your heart response to Jesus for paying your hopeless sin debt?
- 3) Now review the amazing gains from His pain. Do you honestly see yourself as clean, righteous and complete through Christ's blood? Do you come to God with confidence to get what you need daily?
- 4) What kind of debts could we pray for one another about? Who could we love by paying in full one of their debts? Look at the opportunities list and ask God who you can love like He loved you in Christ.