

## Series: Hilarious Faith

### Lesson 2: “The Riches of Hilarious Faith”

**\*Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.**



**Connect:** an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What would most people say it means to be rich? Does anyone ever think they have enough fun, enough to eat, enough in savings, enough vacation time, enough free time?

**Transition:** No, everyone wants just a little bit more than they have. That is part of our fallen nature. We have a problem with being satisfied.

**Bottom Line:** If we truly want to be rich, then discover we need to discover hilarious faith. Today we are going discover the riches of hilarious faith.

#### **LESSON PLAN**

We know there are 4 basic food groups for health: 1) bread, or what I like to call Olive Garden garlic bread sticks; 2) meat, the breakfast food of real men; 3) dairy, preferably in the form of some type of great cheese; and 4) fruits and vegetables, always best when dipped in ranch dressing or covered with dark chocolate! When you are healthy, you feel rich and alive! Ask a rich person how they feel when they find out they have a terminal illness and a short time to live. Suddenly, they don't feel rich. They feel very poor.

What about spiritual health? To feel rich and alive we need to address our spiritual health.

There are 5 spiritual food groups:

1. **Prayer.** Prayer connects you to God and makes you sensitive to doing His will with your life. When you know you are aligning your will to the will of God, there is a feeling of richness in your life.
2. **Getting into the Word.** The Word of God is the Sword of the Holy Spirit. It is sharper than any laser every developed and with the skill of the greatest surgeon can remove the worst disease, the most deadly habits from your life.
3. **Being with church people.** *Have someone read Ecclesiastes 4:7-12.* Jesus built His body, the church, to give us strength to withstand the forces of this world. Together we are strong. When you are strong in godly relationship, there is a feeling of richness in your life.
4. **Serving with God's people.** *Have someone read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.* One of the truly



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great blessings in life is to know that your part is essential to the beauty and power of God’s work in the church. There is a sense of being rich in good deeds done for God’s glory, knowing that somehow I am one of God’s tools in the box He designed.

**5. Giving financially to His Kingdom work.** I love giving almost everything I give through the local church. I know that 100% of what is given is going to the ministry of Jesus’ body. When I give to missions I know that the purpose is not temporary but eternal. I am rich because I am sharing in providing the outreach, the counseling, the healing of broken lives and I know there is no greater place I can place my gifts.

These spiritual foods are only consumed when we make a decision from the heart to offer them to our Lord. All of them are based on the thought, “I want to please God and add to His awesome work in this area.” That’s where it begins. Jesus taught us the importance of having a great spiritual diet.

**Question:** How would you describe your spiritual diet is at this point in your life?

#### Read Matthew 6:19-21

1. How does Jesus describe the uselessness of storing up riches on this earth?

**Question:** What are some of the false riches people give their lives to accumulate?

2. How does Jesus describe the value of storing up treasures in heaven?

*In the first century wealth was not accumulated in banks, but in a cache of precious metals and cloth. Therefore moths and rust were a great danger to riches. The visual is that heavenly treasures are eternal. Nothing can take them away from you and you don’t have to leave them behind. So, Jesus is saying that it is true that you can’t take it with you, but you can send it on ahead by doing things like using your money to help the poor and the suffering.*

**Question:** What are some things you are storing up in heaven now while gathering them here on earth?



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3. What does Jesus mean when He says that our heart will follow our treasure?
  
4. How does wealth demand out time?

**Question:** What are some of the treasures in heaven this church is storing up through its ministry?

#### Read Matthew 6:22-24

5. What is the eye called?

*The lamp of the body. D.C. Allison suggests that the eye is not what lets light into the body but what sends light forth from the body. He traces how some ancients viewed both the “eye shine” of animals and human glances as actually sending light forth from the body. Therefore, a body full of light would send it forth in acts of generosity. A body full of darkness would have no light to send forth. As a result the person would be stingy. That would mean that the person set on earthly wealth sends out darkness instead of light.*

**Question:** How is this reflected in the fact that the average American Christians give 2% of their income to the work of Jesus’ body on earth, the vessel for heavenly treasure?

**Question:** How is this also reflected in the fact that in the American church 10% of the people perform 90% of the ministry?

**Question:** What can be done to change those numbers?

6. What is the problem with having two masters?



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7. Explain what Jesus means by that impossible problem.

8. Who are the two masters that Jesus then points us to?

*The Aramaic word for money was mammon which meant all of one's possessions. No one can hunger for both possessions and for God. It is not possible. If our passion is not focused on God, we will resent Him and ignore Him. God must be our master and then whatever blessings come into my life I can enjoy as a gift and share hilariously for the sake of God's work on earth.*

Truett Cathy, founder and chairman of Chick-fil-A goes beyond giving regularly to his church. Cathy knows the value of investing in the lives of young boys and girls. Besides teaching a junior high boys' Sunday School class for over 40 years, he operates 9 foster homes, has provided over 400 \$10,000 college scholarships, and funds an annual summer camp for more than 1,000 children. Among the Christian principles he instills in these children is the value of generous giving. He tells them, “Money is nice to have – as long as you've got it in your hand and not in your heart.”

Dave Wanstead was a former defensive coordinator for the Cowboys then went to coach Chicago Bears and then the Miami Dolphins. In an article Dave was speaking about his financial and social success. He said this: “If my kids heard me say it once they've heard me say it a thousand times. I was 1 of 6 kids in a 3 bedroom house with 1 car. I've tried to plant the seed with my kids that all this stuff is nice, but it's not what makes you happy. If tomorrow all this was gone, and we had to move into a small apartment and if I had to coach high school football, we would still be happy. When I die, if I can say I gave my family one thing, it would be a faith in God. If they have that they'll have happiness and peace and I'll be as happy as I can be.”

That is a godly statement. There is nothing in this world more important than Jesus' work on earth taking place through us. That is what I want people to say about all of us when we are gone. Wow, those people who used to lead this church, who worshiped here, they put Jesus first. Hilarious faith happens when you focus on the legacy you want to leave.



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**Breakout Group or Discussion Time:** (*This would be an excellent topic for group discussion at tables and then come back together to share ways to better achieve hilarious faith.*) What are some things we could do or share that would cause us to be rich in a hilarious faith?

**Final Question:** What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?