



BEHIND THE SCENES OF DEBT



TWO QUOTATIONS

- “I can't get no satisfaction, I can't get no satisfaction
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try
I can't get no, I can't get no” (*Mick Jagger*)
- “I have learned to be content in whatever
circumstances I am” (*Paul – Philippians 4.11*)
- Which quotation comes easiest to you?



THE FIRST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

- Adam and Eve had everything they really needed
- Could eat the fruit of all the trees except one
- Satan's campaign
 - It looks good
 - You'll be really clever if you eat it
 - Your status will be enhanced
 - Don't pay any attention to the warnings of others
- Eve's eyes taken off all that she had
- Focussed on the one thing she didn't have
- Manipulated by the advertisement
- But Adam put up no resistance!



THE MODERN CRY

- I want it!
- I want it now!
- I don't care about the long term consequences!



THE RESULT

- Total UK Personal Debt (Jan 2009) £1,457 billion
- Average household debt excluding mortgages in UK is £9,550
- Average household debt including mortgages in UK is £59,730
- Interest repayments on personal debt in the UK in last 12 months were £76.2 billion

(Figures from Credit Action)



NOT ALL DEBT IS AVOIDABLE

- Mortgages
- Other major purchases that are necessary for our work or life
- Unforeseen circumstances
 - Accidents
 - Redundancy
 - Illness
 - Etc
- For some the cost of living may at times be more than their income



THE JUBILEE PRINCIPLE

- Every seven years slaves were freed
- Every seven years debts were cancelled
- Every fifty years people's original land was restored
- A system to limit inequality
- Perhaps not seeming fair to some
- Seen by many as unworkable
- But does the way we do things now work!
- Debt can be an unending spiral
- The Jubilee principle could break that
- What are the implications for us today?



PAUL'S SECRET

- “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39)
- Knowing what really matters
- Storing up treasures in heaven
- Things that will last for ever
- Unaffected by moth, rust or recession

