

A Lesson Learned

By Mark Charnet

The Young Thief and His Mother Esop. (Sixth Century BC) Fables. The Harvard Classics 1909-1914

A Young Man had been caught in a daring act of theft and had been condemned to be executed for it. He expressed his desire to see his Mother and to speak with her before he was led to execution and of course this was granted. When his Mother came to see him he said, "I want to whisper to you," and when she brought her ear near him, he nearly bit it off. All the bystanders were horrified and asked him what he could mean by such a brutal and inhuman conduct. "It is to punish her," he said. "When I was young I began with stealing little things and brought them home to Mother. Instead of rebuking and punishing me, she laughed and said: 'it will not be noticed.' It is because of her that I am here today." "He is right woman," said the Priest: The Lord hath said: "TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO; AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART THEREFROM."

What do we learn from this story, especially as it pertains to money? Here we are today, financially speaking, mostly based on what was taught to us, or in most cases, not taught to us by our parents as it pertained to money and finance. When you think about it, isn't it interesting that rich people give birth to rich kids and middle class people give birth to middle class kids and poor people give birth to poor kids. You shouldn't feel sentenced to death and want to bite-off your mother's ear for your current financial plight, but, parents do need to share in the responsibility of financial education as well as the "3R's" and other extracurricular activities like music lessons, dance lessons, karate training, religious school and the like. For my younger readers, the "3R's are: Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic. It is my opinion that immediately after the 3R's, schools must teach classes on wealth creation and perpetuation. Alas, there is no such program in the public education system that I am aware of and probably never will be. So should parents not send their kids to a typical summer day camp and instead look for one specializing in financial education? My response, a resounding YES! Good luck in finding one and certain TV personalities named Suze and Robert are no substitute at all. Amazon and Barnes and Noble have some wonderful books, cd's and course material that can be used to ignite a flame in the minds of young people, but the more important people to educate are the parents themselves.

Through proper training and application of the lessons learned, parents will have the knowledge and power to enhance and magnify their family's wealth for generations. Like the tree farmer who plants rows of trees never to see the benefit of the fruit it will bear or the wood it will provide for future generations, the farmer plants the trees and nurtures them through his lifetime so that others will benefit from his efforts and toil. So too should we plant seeds that will germinate into tremendously strong forests of money trees for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren making their lives as comfortable as possible. If it is within our financial and physical ability to accomplish this

for our family shouldn't there be a responsibility to do so? There is still time for parents to initiate plans, programs, strategies and products necessary to enhance the lives of the people we love the most. Now more than ever, with inflation set to break every record due to the extreme debt creation of the current administration, creating millions of dollars of wealth for our children and their children will be required for them to just be getting by when they retire. In 40 years from now, based on the inflation rate of the last 40 or so years as measured by the Consumer Price Index, the purchasing power of a dollar will shrink by 84%. A dollar today will be worth 16¢ or \$1,000,000 will be worth \$160,000. However, I believe that inflation will be much, much worse bringing the \$160,000 down to half of that! In other words, it will require a \$10,000,000 portfolio to accumulate \$800,000 in 2010 dollars. If you were to retire today with a portfolio of \$800,000 and if deposited in a bank at let's say 4%, if you could get it, your interest income would be \$32,000 a year. I wouldn't feel like a decamillionaire if it took ten million to generate what would be in 2010 dollars, \$32,000 a year to live on. Stated differently, my children ages 9 – 21, will need \$10,000,000 each, just to get by when they retire! Wouldn't it be great if they had a money tree in their backyard to rattle every now and then as needed? As a responsible parent, steward and farmer, I have planted a money forest for them to guarantee it! If you would like to learn how to have your own family money forest, why not give me a call for an appointment to discuss it, it won't cost you a dime! Have a great summer!

*Mark E. Charnet is President and Founder of American Prosperity Group. APG is the Premier Retirement and Estate Planning Franchise in the United States with 15 offices in 8 states. Mr. Charnet has nearly thirty years of experience in the Retirement and Estate Planning fields. Creator of the Trinity Method of Investing©, Mark encourages your inquiries and can be reached at: 800-929-3374 or 973-831-4424 or via email, markcharnet@IAPG.com Check out our website: www.IAPG.com Interested in a career in retirement and estate planning? Check out this website: www.APGFranchise.com *Guarantees are based on the claims paying ability of the insurance company selected. Securities through: BCG Securities, Inc. Member SIPC, FINRA and a Registered Investment Advisor.*