

Lesson 13: Practice Financial Planning

“Money is not the only answer, but it makes a difference.” Barack Obama
(American, 44 United States President, 1961-)

Worked and Saved Every Penny

I have worked hard in my life. I had a good use for every penny I earned, even when I was a slave. I learned that if I worked for hire, that’s when my master would get paid for me working for someone else. If I worked extra hours after the master got his money, I could keep the over pay for myself. That’s all I needed to know.

I was up before sunrise to work the fields, work in and clean the barn, haul the wheat to the mill and chop wood. Before the day was out, I cut about a half-a-cord a day. That hard work paid off. I saved enough to buy myself a pair of steers worth forty dollars. With my own steers, I could work a plot of land and grow more vegetables. I sold my own vegetables and that money was mine to keep. I planned to buy my freedom. But, that never happened. I ended up running away before I had enough money to buy my freedom.

When I got up North, I already knew how to live with just bare necessities. I worked to save my money for my trips back to get my people.

I had many different jobs. I worked in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. I could get jobs real easy down in Cape May, New Jersey. Lots of rich folks came to the beaches in the summer and there was plenty of work in the hotels. I kept every penny I made, and when the winter came, I was ready to head back to Maryland to get my people.

Lesson Learned: Financial goals demand some sacrifice.

Harriet Tubman was able to use the little money she had to support her mission.

Learn to be thrifty and do with less today in order to do more tomorrow.

Hard work pays off. Be thrifty and plan for the future, be a goal setter.

Money can make a difference, but it's not everything.

Practice Financial Planning

Discussion questions:

1. Do you have a savings account? If not, why not?
2. Are there things you can delay or sacrifice to decrease spending and save more?