

EXHORTATION: True Wealth

Let us briefly reflect on the man Jesus Christ. He turned water into wine and restored joy to a spent wedding feast (Matthew 14:17-21). He fed five thousand men excluding women and children with five loaves of bread and two fish, and went on to do it again, this time with four thousand men (Mark 8:20). Note how He made sure that all the leftovers were carefully gathered and stored for later use. In spite of such show of great wealth and power, He walked around the streets of Judea with nothing to His name. If we were Him, more often than not, we would have turned everything we touched into gold in an effort to “demonstrate” God’s glory.

What was the secret behind His attitude towards material things? Why did He have such control over His needs, wants, and desires? Simply put, He knew what true wealth is. What He said to us by His lifestyle while on earth was that when one has it all, when all things are by you, for you and from you, you do not need to accumulate or embellish material things (John 13:3-5). He knew that *purposeless* wealth is a burden, it distracts one from attending to the things that matter the most, attracts the wrong kind of attention and has the tendency to take up a godlike position in people’s lives, and to enslave them. On the other hand, true wealth is spiritual (i.e. knowing God and yielding to His purpose for one’s life). It is eternal and incorruptible, and once it has been obtained and treasured, leaves one wealthy forever. When we permanently connect to the source of all things, then He (God) will provide us the wherewithal to acquire what we need for His great purpose, and will go on to give us our hearts’ desires (Deuteronomy 8:18). The impact of this understanding will manifest first mentally. As with the Lord Jesus, we will have a clear understanding of the place of money in our earthly endeavors (Matthew 26:7-12). This will lead to great liberation from mental poverty and will cause us to respond appropriately when confronted by our needs, wants or desires.

At the material level, a truly wealthy person knows that material wealth is a consequence of seeking and participating in bringing down God’s kingdom to this earth (i.e. righteousness, peace and the joy that comes from communing with the Holy Spirit). In other words, having discovered God’s plans for one’s life, one is then empowered to acquire all that is needed to fulfill that purpose. Thus, money is like the furniture that are brought into a well-designed and built house (our relationship with God), and the pieces fit into the places meant for them. It is not the master of the house, but the servant. It is not the end but just part of the means. It did not pay the piper and should not dictate that tune. It is a means to acquire what we need or desire, and an earthly tool that we can use to lay up heavenly treasures by financing the gospel of Jesus Christ (Luke 16:8-11).

PRAYER TOPICS

1. Give thanks to God for this insight. Our God is a jealous God, and wants to be the means and the end of all of our endeavors. It is He who gives us the ability to acquire wealth, and does so abundantly for those who exalt Him above *all things* in their lives.
2. Is the Lord the means and money the end or is money both the means and the end for us? It is time for us to turn to the Lord and truly repent of this attitude, and ask Him to forgive all of us for this misplaced priority.
3. The insight into true wealth is to be treasured. It is a mystery, and it changes how one approaches life. Ask the Lord to help us discover what true wealth really is, so that we might get about life like Jesus Christ did (Ephesians 1:15-23).
4. Do you feel inferior to others because of your material lack? Are you desperate or depressed because you are not as well off as you would like to be? It is time to turn to the Lord and seek Him for your place in His scheme of things. Then, you may ask what you desire and your desires will be met (John 15:7).
5. During the festive seasons, take authority over the seductive influences of the materialistic world we live in and break their strongholds in our minds. Say to yourself, “I will not spend God’s money recklessly and I will not put myself in bondage (debt).”
6. Ask the Lord to help us meet others’ needs. Pray that we may use godless mammon to lay up for ourselves eternal treasures, and to judiciously use the rest to meet our needs and have some fun because He gave it to us to do just that!

God bless us as we continue to wait on Him. Amen.

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