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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Timothy 6:6-10
Lesson #19
Financial contentment
09/3/2023

1

In a commercial culture of scarcity everything seems reduced to a "needed commodity."

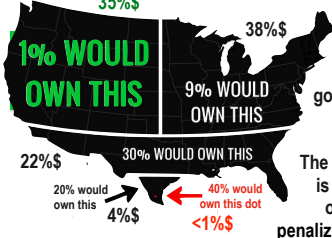


"We are a culture of people spending money we don't have to buy things we don't need to impress people we don't like expecting to find peace we don't get while blaming politicians we don't trust."

*"It costs \$19.95."
 "It will soon be unavailable."
 "We will double your order if you purchase today."*

2

If U.S. land were divided like U.S. wealth



The problem with the 40% in the red dot is that their lack of wealth is too often linked to a lack of dignity, access to goods / services, influence, and opportunity.

The challenge for a "free society" is to produce a **just distribution** of goods and services without penalizing **freedom and productivity**.



The biggest concern with **concentrating so much wealth with so few people** is that they tend to set the stage, keep the score, and tell the story.

Like Jesus we need to hear the cry of the poor.

3

If you want to find the truth . . .

Would Jesus say the same thing?

4

The story of two rich young rulers. *Luke 18:18-27, Matthew 19:16-26*



One had great wealth to give to the other but the other first had to make room for it.

5

The story of the widow's offering. *Mark 12:38-44*



The widow's mite was not about how much she gave away, but about how much she gave up.

6

Mary's anointing Jesus with costly oil

John 12

"1 Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. 3 **Mary** therefore took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But **Judas Iscariot**, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to poor people?" 6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it. 7 **Jesus** therefore said, "Let her alone, in order that she may keep it for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me."

is not about social service, but about worship.

7

1st "You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind"

Spiritual worship

The main thing is to keep the main thing.

Social responsibility **Self gratification**

2nd "and your neighbor as yourself"

The ethics of wealth STARTS with respect for God but doesn't end there.

8

Upside down (the world)

Right side up (the kingdom)

Social responsibility **Self gratification**



Spiritual worship

Spiritual worship



Social responsibility **Self gratification**

9

A waste of resources?



10

"We take a new convert and immediately make a worker out of him. **God would first have us teach him how to worship so that his work would have God in it.**"

A.W. Tozer



11

When asked about her ministry as a social worker she replied, "My ministry is not social work, it is worship. My care for the suffering is my love for Jesus."

Mother Teresa



12

Sacrifice is at the core of the Gospel, worship, and social service.



Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual service of worship**. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is**, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

13

Two popular but false assumptions

A.
The key to peace in a broken world is

1. **social circumstances**
2. **material wealth.**

B.
Godliness is the means to gaining both.

6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, **when accompanied by contentment.**

This is challenged in 1 Tim.6

14

1 Timothy 6

“1 Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine may not be spoken against. 2 And let those who have believers as their masters not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but as those who serve the Lord all the more, because those who partake of the benefits are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles, and do not argue about words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness. 3 He is deceived and understands nothing; but he has a morbid desire to argue about controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

6 **But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.**

7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 8 **And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.** 9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge them into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.”

15

The Way of the Cross
is a call to BOTH the “have-nots” and the “have-lots” to **Take Their Baptism Seriously.**

“have-nots”

The slave is to not demand freedom but be content and serve.

“have-lots”

The rich man is to not seek material wealth but be content and a steward.



16

The Way of the Cross
is a call to BOTH the “have-nots” and the “have-lots” to **Take Their Baptism Seriously.**

“have-nots”

model Christ through peace and power in the context of their poverty

“have-lots”

model Christ through the stewardship of another’s wealth by sacrificially sharing



17

1 Timothy 6

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18

“7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 8 And **if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.**”

Be Content.

To fulfill our calling as Alien Ambassadors for Christ we need:

1. Food and Shelter
2. The Bread of Life & Body of Christ

We are blessed with everything we need to offer a godly response to life’s circumstances.

19

“9 But those who **want to get rich** fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the **love of money** is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang (sorrows).”


Be Cautious

Like the tongue,
our relationship with material wealth
must be controlled and managed,
as it can be a blessing or a curse.

20

As a blessing from God be thankful.

As an opportunity for ministry be a steward.




As a dangerous deception don't let it define you.

As a desensitizer to God, people, & your spiritual need don't let it blind you.

21

2 Corinthians 9:8


“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all **sufficiency in everything**, you may have an abundance for every good deed;”



In every circumstance there is a Godly response and a worldly response open to us.

The difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones rests in how we see and use them.

22



“The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty – it is a poverty of loneliness and spirituality. There’s a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.”


Mother Teresa

23

1 Timothy

Next week
1 Timothy
6:11-16

Fight the right fight



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