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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Timothy 6:17-19
Lesson #21
Purpose driven wealth
09/17/2023

1

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power” and wealth or take it from him.




Abraham Lincoln

2

If you want to find the truth of a person’s character . . .

Jesus might say the same thing!



3

What is materialism?

Some misconceptions

- being MATERIALLY wealthy.
- consuming MORE than you need.
- being AGGRESSIVE in making money.

Materialism is a PREOCCUPATION with material things in defining our identity, security, hope, and values.


4

My challenge with material wealth is not my lack of love for the needy

I have no problem being generous with **SOMEONE ELSE’S** stuff.

My challenge is **FEAR** that I will not endure the suffering that may come to me if I let go of **MY** stuff.

I fail to **BELIEVE** that I can be secure, fulfilled, & at peace “in Christ”, **WITHOUT LOTS OF STUFF.**



5

Are you “high” on material wealth?

(Give yourself a spiritual “drug test”)



Preoccupation with stuff
Ownership of stuff
Triggers (anger & anxiety)

6

1 Timothy 6:6
 “But godliness actually is a means of great gain **when accompanied by contentment.**”

Philippians 4
 “¹¹ Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and **I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.** ¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.”


Paul’s true wealth was not altered by his material wealth or poverty.

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1 Timothy 6
 “¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.”

1. Clarify worldly wealth - God’s BLESSING.

- It is more than money.
- It is not evil.
- It is not evenly distributed.
- It is not assured or secured.
- It is a gift from God.
- It is to be enjoyed.
- It is not true wealth.



8




The orphan & widow
The broken hearted
The sick & wounded
The Samaritan
The prisoner
The materially poor

What do these have in common? They were targets of Jesus’ ministry.

Biblical poverty = A need and hunger for justice, community, and dignity

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Poverty is about more than material needs.



Social
 - not nurtured in or connected to a supportive community.

Political
 - not free to effect change in policy that shapes social structures.

Spiritual
 - not empowered from within with hope, dignity, and purpose from a relationship with God.

Material
 - not able to afford basics (food, shelter, etc.)

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Wealth is about more than material assets.



Healthy family
Supportive community
Divine providence
Favorable circumstances
Social contacts
Natural ability
Physical health
Political influence
Spiritual gifts
Material assets

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God’s gifts can become idols.

America’s “original sin” may be our **LIBERTY**


Israel’s Golden Calf can become America’s “Bull of Wall Street”.



12

Jeremiah 2:13

“For My people have committed two evils. They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”



Worldliness is seeking hope in all the wrong places.

13

As a blessing thank God and enjoy.

As an opportunity for ministry be a steward.

material wealth

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.



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1 Timothy 6

“18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,”


2. Clarify ownership - STEWARDSHIP.

Worldly Wealth (WW) Is:

- a tool for good works.
- to be shared, not held on to.
- to be invested for true wealth.

In the same way that we are both priests OF and bond slaves TO God, we are also both possessors and stewards of God's blessings.

Parable of the Talents Matt.25:14-30



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1 Timothy 6

“19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”

3. Clarify WW's purpose - INVESTMENT.

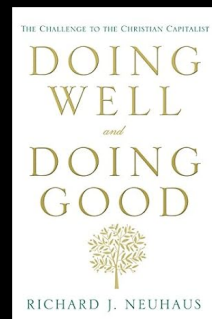
- WW is an opportunity for ministry
- WW is manage with the future in mind.

Just as it is not what happens to us, but how we respond to it, that shapes our future, so it is not what we have, but what we do with it, that brings “fullness to life”.



16

Taking care of business and taking care of each other should not be separated.



Freedom is of value only as a vehicle for love, and free markets must be driven by moral reconstruction, above all by a Gospel-based commitment to the poor.

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Genesis 1

“26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; and let them rule over . . . all the earth. . . . 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it;”

Humans were made in the Image of God with a responsibility to manage natural resources for the sustenance of life on the planet.

This was understood as a community effort with shared participation and benefits.

It was the “natural law” that inspired Democratic Capitalism.

18

Two elements of human dignity

Work - helping ourselves

2 Thessalonians 3:10

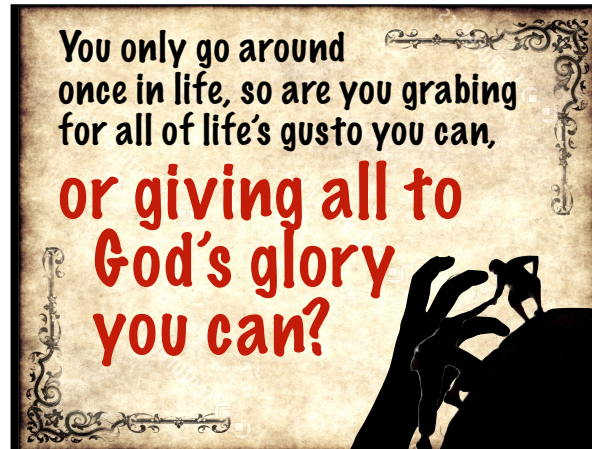
“if anyone will not work, **neither let him eat.**”

Community - helping one another

Acts 2

“44 And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions, and **were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.**”

19



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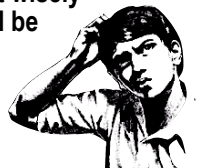


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Jesus' Investment Advice



1. For those serious about increasing true wealth, invest material assets in low risk commodities for long term gains.
2. Diversification of assets is not recommended.
3. What is not wisely invested will be lost.



22

Proverbs 30:8-9

“Give me neither poverty nor riches - Feed me with the food that is my portion; that I not be full and deny You, and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or that I not be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God.”

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