

BETWEEN THE LINES

A Deeper Look...

#849- WEALTH: A Blessing And A Test

Parables on "Stuff": As stated on our broadcast, it appears, to me, that about 70% of the parables of Jesus seems to speak to the issue of how I relate to material possessions and "stuff". Is the Lord is trying to give us clear warning about how easily this issue becomes destructive to me?

Some have attributed as many as 133 parables or parable-style statements to our Lord in the gospels. Here's 37 of the most "full blown" ones (with only one citation given for those that are shared in multiple gospels). Why not scan these and see if you can catch the heart of His warnings in this regard?

Matthew 13	Enemies in the Field	Luke 10	The Good Samaritan
	Leaven in the Dough	Luke 11	The Gift of Bread
	Hidden Treasure		The Inner Light
	A Pearl of Great Price	Luke 12	Two Builders
	The Net		Living in Anticipation
	Treasures Old and New	Luke 13	The Barren Fig
Matthew 18	An Overwhelming Debt	Luke 14	The Great Banquet
Matthew 19	Rich Men and Camels		Counting the Cost
Matthew 20	Laborers in the Vineyard	Luke 15	The Lost Sheep
Matthew 21	Two Sons		The Lost Coin
	The Lord's Vineyard		The Lost Son
Matthew 22	The Wedding Garment	Luke 16	The Dishonest Steward
Matthew 25	Ten Bridesmaids		The Rich Man and Lazarus
	The Talents	Luke 18	The Unjust Judge
	Sheep and Goats		Two Worshipers
Mark 4	A Candle	Luke 19	The Nobleman and the Pounds
	A Seed	John 6	The Bread of Life
	Mustard Seed	John 8	The Light of the World
		John 10	The Good Shepherd
			The Good Samaritan

One-Liner Wisdom: Solomon gives volumes of insight on wealth and how to prioritize life. Here, from Proverbs (as translated in the TANAKH), is a sampling of the gems that the Lord has preserved for us...

- 1:19 Such is the fate of all who pursue unjust gain; it takes the life of the possessor.
- 2:4-5 If you seek (understanding) as you do silver, and search for it as for treasures, Then you will understand the fear of the Lord and attain knowledge of God.
- 3:9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the best of all your income...
- 5:23 (The wicked) will die for lack of discipline, infatuated by his great folly.
- 6:6 Lazybones, go to the ant; study its ways and learn.
- 8:10 Accept my discipline rather than silver, knowledge rather than choice gold.
- 10:4 Negligent hands cause poverty, but diligent hands enrich.
- 11: 4 Wealth is of no avail on the day of wrath, but righteousness saves from death.
- 12:27 A diligent man has precious wealth.
- 13:11 Wealth may dwindle to less than nothing, [gathering] little by little increases it.
- 14:31 He who withholds what is due to the poor affronts his Maker...
- 15:17 Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with confusion.
- 16:3 Entrust your affairs to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.
- 17:1 Better a dry crust with peace than a house full of feasting with strife.
- 19:17 He who is generous to the poor makes a loan to the Lord...
- 20:17 Bread gained by fraud may be tasty to a man, but later [gravel in his mouth].

- 21:6 Treasures acquired by a lying tongue are like driven vapor, heading for extinction.
- 22:1 Repute is preferable to great wealth, grace is better than silver and gold.
- 23:4 Do not toil to gain wealth; have the sense to desist it.
- 28:6 Better is a poor man who lives blamelessly than a rich man [with wicked ways].
- 30:15 The leech has two daughters, "Give!" and "Give!"

~~~~~  
**Gambling- An Assault On Your Faith:** Sadly, there are some Christians who have never really processed the spiritual principles behind concepts of wealth. Unless that's done it's easy to fall into a mentality that Satan just loves- instant gratification. In the realm of wealth and possessions this plays itself out in risky financial efforts, with gambling being the most blatant form of seeking that "quick fix" in contrast to the spiritual discipline of patience.

I'd urge you to prayerfully consider the following ten statements and see if they might not be a solid foundation for the establishment of your financial priorities... and a killer condemnation against gambling...

**1 - The Lord has stated that His people will absolutely trust Him to provide.**

Matthew 6:25-34, Luke 12:15, I Timothy 6:6-9  
*Risky financial efforts assault that walk of faith.*

**2 - If you become His child you submit to having Him ordering your live.**

Matthew 10:30, Proverbs 3:5-6  
*There is no room for a mentality of "luck" for those who believe in His providential care.*

**3 - We are called to be satisfied with what He gives us.**

Exodus 20:17, Hebrews 13:5, I Timothy 6:6  
*If you really don't want to covet, why not buy a lottery ticket and pray someone else wins?*

**4 - Risky financial efforts also challenge my love for my fellow man.**

Philippians 2:3-4, Romans 12:10  
*If I want more of the pie who is going to get less so I can have it?*

**5 - We are called to look out for the hurting, the weak, and the vulnerable.**

Zechariah 7:9-10, Amos 2:6-7  
*The weakest members of society are usually the ones most hurt by "get rich quick" concepts.*

**6 - A child of Christ's highest priority is to represent Him well.**

I Corinthians 10:31-33  
*If my financial dealings are unbalanced, how does this draw anyone to Him?*

**7 - I've been called to have honest dominion over all that He's given me.**

Genesis 1:26-27, Matthew 25:14-30  
*How will I defend myself to Him if I've been risking His gifts to me?*

**8 - My discipline in my work ethic is a statement about living in His will.**

Genesis 2:15, Exodus 20:9, II Thessalonians 3:10, Ephesians 4:28  
*Have any of us been called to "get rich quick"?*

**9 - Risky financial dealings are based upon greed.**

I Timothy 6:10, Matthew 6:31  
*Where is my heart? Where is my affection? What is my priority?*

**10 - All I do should be above reproach.**

Ephesians 5:3, I Thessalonians 5:22, II Corinthians 5:7  
*Can you name one eternal benefit that is accomplished by any risky business venture?*

**BETWEEN THE LINES - Deeper Look Study Guide**