

WEALTH & RICHES

Sell What You Have & Give It To The Poor

- I. Psalm 112:3-If the wealth and the riches are in his house, then he didn't give everything he had away to the poor
- A. Can you have wealth and riches in your house and not give everything you have to the poor and at the same time be a righteous person who fears God? Or if you really were righteous and really did fear God would you sell that stuff and give it to the poor? Which is true?
1. The picture this paints is that this man has some stuff of very high value in his house; If he's a righteous man shouldn't he sell that nice stuff and give it to the poor? (Wealth-Substance, high value, riches)
 2. He's righteous, fears God, delights in His commands & he is wealthy but not selling His stuff and giving to the poor
- B. He gave generously, lavishly and yet He didn't become poor in doing it (V9)
1. *GNT-He gives generously; LEB-He gives lavishly; TP-Never stingy and always generous to those in need*
 2. *His righteousness endures forever-Neither his prosperity nor his righteous acts ever run out*
 3. He's doing both, he has prosperity/abundance, but he's helping the poor too
- C. Sacrifice or abundance? Helping the poor or prosperity? Which one is right? How about both?
1. People think you have to pick one and don't realize that you can do both
 - a. You can have abundance and do everything the Lord leads you to do where helping people is concerned
 2. There's the idea if you believe in prosperity/abundance/having anything nice, you don't care about the poor
- D. Traditionalized religion teaches if you have anything more than you need, anything nice that you should take all your extra and help the poor and God's not satisfied until you've emptied yourself out
1. Basically you can't have anything nice and if you do you don't care about the poor (The shame of the devil)
 2. This is hypocritical, inconsistent, unscriptural (You could you find a cheaper car and give the extra to the poor?)
 3. God's not even asking you to do this, but because people ignore scriptures and build doctrines on a half of a verse and religion will give you the idea that God is expecting this of you
- II. Mark 10:17-Was Jesus' aim and purpose for this guy to sell his stuff and become poor because helping the poor is the most important thing and being rich is bad? This is what many people think
- A. 22-24-Most think his problem was that He was rich and being rich is bad; His problem was not that He was rich; His problem was that he loved his money and stuff more than He loved God and he trusted in it – That's Covetousness
1. 23-They that have riches-It's not just referring to possession, it's referring to people who are clinging to their riches like this rich young ruler (Have-To hold one's self to a thing, to lay hold of a thing, to adhere or cling to; Relation)
- B. It's hard to enter into God's Kingdom (rule, reign), to come under God's authority when money is your king and He is not
1. This is not referring to just going to Heaven, but it's referring to coming under God's authority
 2. It's *hardly* is because you can't serve God and mammon (Hardly-Impracticable, that cannot be accomplished)-Mt6:24
 3. If you have riches and don't cling to them it's not hard to enter into the Kingdom of God; It's not the riches that makes it difficult it's the clinging to the riches that is the problem
- C. If He didn't love his money would Jesus even have asked him to do this? Was this a universal requirement that he asked of everybody who followed Him, to sell your stuff and give it to the poor? If it is we'll see Him asking others to do this
1. Mt4:18-19-He said to Peter and Andrew, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."--- Mt9:9, Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27-He said to Matthew, "Follow me." (NOTE: Matthew was a tax collector, a publican. They were public contractors, in which role they often supplied the Roman Legions and military, managed the collection of port duties, and oversaw public building projects. In addition, they served as tax collectors for the Republic bidding on contracts from the Senate in Rome for the collection of various types of taxes. Most likely they were wealthy or very wealthy) --- Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23-He said to his disciples deny yourself (disregard your own interests) and follow me --- Luke 9:59-He said, "Follow me" and when they wanted to have other things first like burying their father or saying good bye to their family Jesus said, "No man having put his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of

God.” – He’s got to be first – If they just would have said okay I’ll follow you, Jesus would have let them do their stuff --- Luke 14:33-He said, “He of you that forsakes not all he has, he cannot be my disciple.”

2. Only one person did he require that they sell their stuff and give it to the poor and it was the man who loved his stuff
 - a. He doesn’t require that we have nothing to follow him, but that we don’t love anything more than we do Him

D. Was Jesus trying to get this guy to be poor? Or was he dealing with his covetousness, endeavoring to fix his heart?

1. 21-Follow me-Jesus was following God-Psalm 23 is what you experience when you follow God and there is no poverty in that Psalm; Psalm 81 says prosperity if you follow him
2. 30-Jesus wasn’t trying to get to give his stuff away and be poor, but rather he was endeavoring to get him to stop loving and trusting in his money and stuff and if he had, he would have more than he ever imagined

E. Luke 12:32-33-His priority is not to get them poor and his main objective is not to help the poor, but rather to obtain their trust; He doesn’t want them poor, He does want their trust; He’s not even talking about the poor in these verses, he’s talking about trusting him and not worrying about your needs being met

III. Two mistakes people make 1) Try to become someone else’s source 2) They think they eradicate poverty by helping people naturally – You’re not their source and your material belongings aren’t their answer

A. You are not another man’s source-*Psalm 23:1-The Lord is my shepherd; Philippians 4:19-My God shall supply*

1. You can be used to provide some temporary help, but you cannot become their source
 - a. God does value helping the poor and hurting, but what He doesn’t want is for you to try to become their source; If the people you helping have made you their source, this is not a good thing
2. Everybody needs to learn to rely on God for themselves and not be dependent upon other people
 - a. God’s a jealous God and He wants people relying on Him (Is30-They got in trouble for looking to Egypt)

B. What causes poverty?

1. Deuteronomy 15:4-5-Lack of revelation of God, His Word, His will, His plan coupled with a failure to follow Him, whether through ignorance or rebellion, brings poverty of all kinds
 - a. Job 36:11-There is no area of your life where you can follow the Lord and stay poverty in that area
2. Are you every going to eradicate poverty in this life? No – Deuteronomy 15:11, John 12:8
 - a. There’s plenty of stuff to go around, but there’s not plenty of obedience to God (Mt14-There’s plenty of stuff)
 - b. In our U.S. economy there is enough money and every household to have close to 800,000 of income

C. What eradicates poverty?

1. The answer to poverty is to preach the gospel-Matthew 11:5, Luke 4:18, 7:22
 - a. Why did Jesus preach the gospel to the poor? God multiplied the fish and the loaves couldn’t he have done that everywhere he went? Yes, but the answer to poverty isn’t material things, but rather revelation of the Word of God and willingness to follow Him
2. Throwing material things at poverty is like brining a baseball bat to a football game; You’re not even in the game

D. Isaiah 11:4-Judging the poor

1. Why are you struggling? Are you rebelling against God and if you are should we support you in your disobedience?
 - a. We need to be led of the Lord about who we help and when we help them because a sometimes we are helping people who maybe shouldn’t be helped and it’s just financing their laziness, their rebellion, their disobedience to the Lord; Not all poor people are created equal
 - b. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-God said if a man doesn’t work he shouldn’t eat, so should we help a man who can work, but just chooses not to or can’t keep a job because of his own unwillingness to submit to a boss
2. It’s not being uncompassionate, it’s understanding that I’m not their source, material things aren’t their answer and if they don’t learn to follow God and make him their source their never getting out of this
 - a. Most people that are hurting to give them money is like putting it in bags with holes;

E. Should you feel bad for having something nice or having extra because there are people in the world doing without?

1. The enemy will try to get you to feel guilty for your prosperity (People aren't eating and you're driving this nice car) and there's this thing that you should be ashamed; Should I be ashamed of the Lord's blessing on my life?
2. You shouldn't be ashamed or feel guilty because we all have the same source and you having something is not keeping someone else from having what they need; The same God that gave it to you, can give it to them
 - a. Is you having that keeping them from having what they need? Or is God big enough to take care of both?
3. Don't be ashamed, if the Lord tells you to help someone, then help them otherwise enjoy what you have
 - a. But also don't live under the assumption that He wants you to help everyone, everywhere
4. I'm willing to do anything the Lord shows me, but I also realize I'm not people's source

IV. 1 Timothy 6:17-Charge them that are rich in the world to do what?

A. Our responsibility with everything is to be ready to distribute and willing to communicate

1. We should be ready and willing to give anything that the Lord has put in our hands, willing to give, willing to sacrifice to help someone in need, to help someone who is hurting

B. Rich is relative; It's easy to tell somebody else to do it, but if this is what you believe then you need to do it

1. In a lot of countries you would be considered rich and so if you believe rich people should sell what they have and give to the poor then you need to start downsizing and sending your money to those poor people

V. Are there things that are more important to Him than helping poor people?

- A. John 12, Mt26:9, Mk14:5-The are assuming and presuming that anybody who has something expensive should sell it and give to the poor and they were wrong
- B. Jesus said no it shouldn't have been sold and given to the poor – How many people could that have fed?