

“WEALTH FROM THE INSIDE OUT”

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Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Generosity

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Proverbs 14:31

³¹ Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker,
but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

Proverbs 19:17

¹⁷ Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will repay him for his deed.

Diligence and Care

Proverbs 10:4

⁴ A slack hand causes poverty,
but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 13:11

¹¹ Wealth gained hastily^[a] will dwindle,
but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

Proverbs 14:23

²³ In all toil there is profit,
but mere talk tends only to poverty.

Proverbs 22:7

⁷ The rich rules over the poor,
and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

Proverbs 27:23

Know well the condition of your flocks,
and give attention to your herds.

Proverbs 28:19

¹⁹ Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,
but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

Warnings and Insights

Proverbs 10:15

¹⁵ A rich man's wealth is his strong city;
the poverty of the poor is their ruin.

Proverbs 11:1

A false balance is an abomination to the LORD,
but a just weight is his delight.

Proverbs 11: 24-26

²⁴ One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

²⁵ Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered.

²⁶ The people curse him who holds back grain,
but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.

Proverbs 11:28

²⁸ Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf

Proverbs 13:23

²³ The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food,
but it is swept away through injustice.

Proverbs 15: 16-17

¹⁶ Better is a little with the fear of the LORD
than great treasure and trouble with it.

¹⁷ Better is a dinner of herbs where love is
than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

Proverbs 16:19

¹⁹ It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor
than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 18: 10-11

¹⁰ The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

¹¹ A rich man's wealth is his strong city,
and like a high wall in his imagination.

Proverbs 22:1

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.

Proverbs 22:2

² The rich and the poor meet together;
the LORD is the maker of them all.

Proverbs 28:8

⁸ Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit^[a]
gathers it for him who is generous to the poor.

Proverbs 30:7-9

Two things I ask of you;
deny them not to me before I die:
⁸ Remove far from me falsehood and lying;
give me neither poverty nor riches;
feed me with the food that is needful for me,
⁹ lest I be full and deny you
and say, "Who is the LORD?"
or lest I be poor and steal
and profane the name of my God.

A Vision of Godly Stewardship

Proverbs 31:10-31

¹⁰ ^[a] An excellent wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
¹² She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
¹³ She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
¹⁴ She is like the ships of the merchant;
she brings her food from afar.
¹⁵ She rises while it is yet night
and provides food for her household
and portions for her maidens.
¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
¹⁷ She dresses herself ^[b] with strength
and makes her arms strong.
¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
¹⁹ She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
²⁰ She opens her hand to the poor
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household,
for all her household are clothed in scarlet. ^[c]
²² She makes bed coverings for herself;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
²³ Her husband is known in the gates
when he sits among the elders of the land.
²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them;
she delivers sashes to the merchant.
²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
²⁹ "Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all."
³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the gates.

Questions:

1. Why is money so powerful, and wealth so alluring?
2. What particular temptation mentioned this morning do you find most difficult for you personally? Why?
3. How does the Bible's teaching on money challenge our cultural views about money?
4. Where do you need wisdom in regards to financial matters?
5. How does security in Christ lead to a generous life?
6. Why does the ability to "laugh at the days to come" indicate a healthy engagement with money? What really allows us to approach the future with resounding joy and contentment?