

Daily Bible Study June 13-19, 2010

“Whose Money is it Anyway? –Part 2” Selected Scripture

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – We want to continue this week with part 2 of our little mini-study on money, possessions, stewardship, and giving. We will cover some more principles this week regarding a Biblical perspective on money and stewardship. No matter how “much” you make or possess, or how “little” you do, these principles are applicable for us. As we saw last time, it is ALL God’s wealth. Read **Psalm 24:1** and **Proverbs 10:22**. Many people like to assume that Jesus grew up dirt poor and homeless. Those who push this view for the most part also push for Christians to live a semi-poverty lifestyle. “Christian poverty” does NOT lead to righteousness. One can be poor and needy and very, very unrighteous. In the time of Christ we find that Jesus was born into a family that made up the largest sector of society. There was a large segment of poor people whom Jesus recognized (**Matthew 26:11**) and there was a smaller group of wealthy people, those who owned lands and had religious position and had power and authority under Roman control. But Jesus was born into the “middle” class that was composed of tradesmen and craftsmen. The Bible tells us that Jesus’ father was a “carpenter” (**Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3**). The Greek word is the word “tekton” which can mean “builder, carpenter, and craftsmen.” According to history under Roman expansion the construction business was flourishing around Jesus’ hometown, Nazareth. A man like Joseph, with several children to support was most likely providing them a living with quality work and had a successful business that Jesus, as the first born, would have inherited at the death of Joseph. From this we need to learn that God told us to work and earn a living. He set us an example right from the earthly home of Jesus. Read **Genesis 2:2, Exodus 23:12, and 1 Thessalonians 4:11**

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Ask the Lord to continue to teach you from His Word this week about being a steward of His wealth. Ask Him to help you to be a diligent worker and thank Him for the opportunity to earn a living in whatever job He has given you.

TUESDAY – To follow up on yesterday’s study, we understand that God has made for us all things to enjoy and have dominion over and subdue (**Genesis 1:27-29, 2:8-14**). God made a world for man to live in and to enjoy and to be thankful to his creator for. We read in **Job 28** a little bit about the riches in the earth placed here by God that men work to “mine out.” We understand from Scripture that God’s riches are immeasurable and He owns absolutely everything (**Psalm 50:10-12**). So the notion that God wants us to walk around with absolutely nothing is not a principle He teaches from His Word. He does lay out the dangers of the love of wealth and the idolatry that it is, but we will see in the next couple days He also lays out principles about how to acquire wealth.

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Ask the Lord for a proper perspective about “things.” Ask Him for a contented, caring heart and thank Him that He has given us resources to work for and acquire.

WEDNESDAY – As we previously mentioned, the first way in which we see God instruct us to get wealth is by working for it. The Bible is very clear on this principle. This is the primary means of acquiring money. Read **Exodus 20:9-10, Ephesians 4:28, Proverbs 28:19, 12:24, 13:4, 14:23, 6:6-8, 20:4, 2 Thessalonians 3:10,** and **1 Timothy 5:8**. I think we get the point, the Bible is clear that a man will acquire wealth and possessions by working.

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Thank the Lord again for the ability to work and ask Him for a desire to work as hard as a slave of His.

THURSDAY – Another way of obtaining money, especially in regard to our future security, is to SAVE it. We see in Scripture the principle of saving and putting some things away for a time when they are needed. Saving is not always easy and it is, in a way, a form of work. We must “put away” if we are to have “in store” for later. We don’t always have a “pile” to store away, but with discipline and wise saving and even investing we will have, as the Bible lays out, some for when we need it. Read **Proverbs 21:20, 30:25,** and **Matthew 25:27**.

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you learn from the ants; to work and save for when needs arise and to be wise in our dealings with money.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – We’ve seen we are to work and then to be wise and save. We could put this instruction under the general rule of planning. We are not to be frivolous and impulsive with money and carelessly spend with no self control. We need to be disciplined and plan and lay out a budget. It is very easy for money to “burn a hole in your pocket.” We need to ignore the cultures cry that “you need it and you need it now!” Read this passage about planning with thought (**Proverbs 27:23-24**). Also read **Luke 16:10-11** and see that God requires us to be faithful with earthly wealth and handle it well or we won’t be entrusted with “true riches.” I know this subject is vast and we cannot possibly articulate every detail in our study but we really do need to understand the importance of being wise stewards. Sixteen of Jesus’ 38 parables deal with handling earthly treasure and the Bible is saturated with verses on wealth and property. This is a topic important to our lives. But never forget, true riches are “laid up in heaven” (**Matthew 6:19-21**). Being “rich” IS NOT about the amount of money and possessions we possess here on earth. The Lord is gracious. He gives us and entrusts us with His resources. We are not all equal in how much He has given to each one, but as believers, we all should know and understand that the Lord has the best interest in mind for all of His children individually—however much or little they have. Read **Proverbs 10:22**.

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you cultivate a discipline of planning and wisdom with resources, and not be an impulsive wasteful spender. Thank God for His graciousness and ask Him to help you cultivate a heart set on having complete satisfaction and contentment with His blessings and to help you desire to lay up treasure in heaven.