



**Encouragement in Money:
The Rich Young Ruler**
March 19, 2017

Text: Mark 10:17-31

The Bible references money and possessions more than 2000 times. That's a lot. It's more than Jesus talked about love, and more than He talked about heaven and hell combined. Now hold on to your wallets and your purses. I am not going to take up another offering. So BREATHE!!!!

LESSONS FROM THE TEXT:

The great question in life is how to obtain eternal life. This story of the rich young man puts a twist on money and possessions. He thought that being genuinely nice, giving flattery to Jesus and having riches he would achieve eternal life.

The Bible declares in the following scriptures that God has the first and last word on eternal life.

- **John 3:16 ESV** "For God so love the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."
- **Romans 10:9 & 10 ESV** "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."
- **Eph.2:8-9 ESV** "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

One cannot earn salvation or buy their way into the kingdom of God. Rather, each person must be willing to give up everything (**your will**) in order to totally devote themselves to God and obey Him. The rewards for doing so outweighs all the sacrifices. This does not mean you have to go and sell everything but if God calls for it, do so with love and honor to Him.

- **Matt 6:19-21 ESV** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The rich young man said he kept all of the commandments Jesus quoted him. But Jesus, full of compassion and love for the young man said, "One thing you lack". Jesus gave six commands to the young man in Mark 10:21

- 1.) **Go your way**
- 2.) **Sell all you have**
- 3.) **Give to the poor**
- 4.) **Come to me**
- 5.) **Take up the cross**
- 6.) **Follow me.**

Mark 10:22 “Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

It is not good enough to merely keep the ‘letter’ of the Law. Jesus called His disciples to understand and observe the principles behind the Law as well.

- **John 15:14 ESV** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
- **James 2:10 ESV** “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.”

The rich young ruler had great wealth and possessions. Many today might think being rich, they did it on their own and have an open door to heaven.

Deut. 8:17- 18 ESV “Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth that he may confirm the covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.’”

God does blessed the poor in spirit base on the sermon on the mount Jesus said Matt 5 Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.. The poor in spirit are those who recognize they are in need of God’s help...theirs is the kingdom of heaven. It belongs to those who confess their spiritual bankruptcy.

Each person must be very careful not to allow wealth and earthly possessions to become more important than their walk with God. Money will bring much satisfaction in this age but may cause you to be excluded from the kingdom of God. Everything belongs to God!

- **Psalms 24:1 ESV** “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.’”

WARNINGS TO THE RICH:

The Bible declares (**1 Tim. 6:10**) “The love of money is the root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierce themselves with many pangs.”

The Bible declares (**1 Tim 6:17-19**) “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

The Bible declares (**Matt. 6:24**) that “no one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

WARNINGS TO THE POOR:

The Bible declares in **Prov. 21:5&6** “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.”

The Bible declares in **Prov. 15:27** “Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live.”

The Bible declares in **1Tim: 6:6-10** “now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the **love** of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”

SOME ENCOURAGEMENT ON FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES:

Here at CRCC, Bishop and Sis. McLeod brought FPU to our church @ the year 2004. This class has helped many of our saints and friends in the church and our community to achieve Financial Peace.

If you have been through the FPU classes this is a refresher: “DO A BUDGET AND STICK TO IT”

The seven BABY STEPS to Financial Freedom--- Dave Ramsey

- Save \$1k in a beginner emergency fund. If you make less \$20K / year aim at \$500.
- Payoff all debt (except the house) using the debt snow ball—Start with the smallest payoff or balance first.
- Put 3-6 months of expenses in savings. Finish off the emergency fund by having 6 to 12 months cash at your disposal. Usually it ranges from 5K to 25k. Depends on your monthly bills without debt.
- Maximize Retirement Investing—Invest 15% of your income into a Roth IRA and pre-tax retirement plans.
- Save for your children’s College education using tax-favored plans.
- Pay off your house early.
- Build Wealth and give like crazy.

Remember winning at money is 80% behavior and 20% head knowledge.

90% of people in our culture buy things they can’t afford. Don’t try to keep up with the ‘Jones’.

- **Prov. 22:7** “The rich rules over the poor and the borrower is the slave of the lender.” (Master Card, Visa and Discover.)

“One definition of maturity is learning to delay pleasure. Children do what feels good; adults devise a plan and follow it.”-- Dave Ramsey **Learn how to say NO to YOURSELF!!!!**

CONTENTMENT WITH MONEY:

- **Prov. 3:5-10 ESV** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. Honor the Lord with your **wealth** and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

- **Prov. 30:7-9 ESV** “Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; **give me neither poverty nor riches**; feed me with the food that is needful for me, 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.”

CRCC STEWARDSHIP STATEMENT:

1. We believe everything we have belongs to God. (Ps 24:1)
2. We believe in divine reciprocity, that God will give to us according to our giving. (Luke 6:23, 2Cor.9.6)
3. We believe in giving our best in love because that is what Jesus did. (John 3:16)
4. We believe in giving to support the mission of our local church so that hurting people might be found, taught and set free. (Matt: 9:35-38, Matt: 28:18-20)
5. We believe in consistent giving to ensure a firm financial foundation of God’s church. (2Cor. 9:10-15)
6. We believe in giving in faith, knowing that God will continually test us with money to ensure it doesn’t become an idol. (Matt.6:21)
7. We believe (with respect to tithing) that every Christian should strive to give using the 10% model, but recognize that the New Testament biblical mandate is regular, cheerful giving as God has prospered you. (1Cor.16:1-2)

FINAL STATEMENT:

CRCC, as Christians, we are going to be challenged to manage the money and possessions God has given to us. Don’t let it become an idol to you. Continue to love and give sacrificially. Remember money is a tool to be used for expanding the kingdom of God, living our lives and giving to others.

Mark 8:34-37 ESV “ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. **For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?** For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in glory of his Father with the holy angels”

Prayer--Heavenly Father, sustainer of Life, The one who gives and takes away, we thank you for the love and care you have given to us through the shed blood of your son Jesus Christ. We ask that you help us to manage our wealth and possessions well to honor you and be a testament to the world. Clean our hearts in the areas that need to be clean so that we don’t have any barriers to keep the Holy Spirit working in us. Continue to give us wisdom on how to use our time, talent and treasure to glorify you. It’s in the name of our Lord Jesus I pray. Amen.