

Luke 1:53 - 53... he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

FINANCIAL CONTEXT

- OUR POOR VS. THEIR POOR - life expectancy, food, medicine, housing → 2020 census - 12.6% poverty
- I AM NOT DIMINISHING REAL NEED IN YOUR CONGREGATION OR CULTURE, BUT THIS PASSAGE HOLDS DEEPER WEIGHT THAT WE ALL MISS IF WE JUST SAY "WE AREN'T RICH" → MARRIN IS WEIRD.
- ISSUE ISN'T MONEY ITSELF - NEUTRALITY OF MONEY IN SCRIPTURES

FOUR TYPES OF STEWARDS IN PROVERBS

RIGHTEDS

RICH - HARD WORK, FAITHFULNESS, FINANCIAL BLESSING
Proverbs 8:18-21 - Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice, granting an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasuries.

POOR - HARD WORK, HONESTY, CONTENTMENT
Proverbs 11:18 - The wicked earns deceptive wages, but one who sows righteousness gets a sure reward.

Luke 21:1-4 - Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

UNRIGHTEDS

RICH - DECEPTION, STEALING, PLOTTING
Proverbs 28:6 - Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.

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POOR - LAZINESS, COMPLACENCY
Proverbs 20:4 - The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

POOR STEWARDS

WE KNOW ALL OF THESE

HEART/STEWARDSHIP ISSUE

1 Timothy 6:6-10 - But godliness with contentment is great gain, 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.

- THE LOVE OF MONEY (+ ALL IT AFFECTS) IS THE PROBLEM
- THE EVIL WITHIN THE HEARTS OF MEN IS THE PROBLEM

PRINCIPLE → THOSE WHO HAVE WORK ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO LACK HUNGER FOR THE BEST THINGS

THE PASSAGE

Luke 1:53 - he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

HUNGRY = NEEDY, TRUE WANT
FILLED = BESTOW BEAUTIFULLY } NOT FULL OF ALL ELSE
GOOD THINGS = ADVANTAGE, GOODS/RICHES

RICH - TO HAVE ABUNDANCE TO BE RICH OUTWARD POSSESSIONS } DISCIPLINE TO HAVE THINGS & NOT LET THEM HAVE YOU.

SENT AWAY W/ EMPTY HANDS? HOW?

OUR RESPONSES

WHY IS GOD SO DISTANT? WHY CAN'T I FEEL HIS PRESENCE? YOUR LIFE IS TOO FULL FOR HIM, AND YOU ARE TOO FULL OF OTHER THINGS TO LET CHRIST IN.

Let every heart prepared him room

Matthew 19:16-23 - And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the Kingdom of heaven."

I DID ALL THESE!
WANT TO BE MATURE? UNSTUCK?
GET RID OF WHAT YOU HATE IT IS THAT KEEPS YOU FROM ME
HOW HARD IT IS FOR THOSE FULL OF THE WORLD TO LOVE ME FIRST.

Revelation 3:15-22 - "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

CREAT POSSESSIONS/RICH/FULL

- MONEY - DON'T CRIMINALIZE OUR BASE, BE ALWAYS
- TIME - PRIDEMORE - WILLARDY - RUTHLESSLY EXAMINATE
- ATTENTION - WHERE ARE YOUR EYES & MIND? HUNGERY
- STUFF VS. SUBSTANCE

A.W. Tozer - The ancient curse will not go out painlessly; the tough old miser within us will not lie down and die obedient to our command. He must be torn out of our heart like a plant from the soil; he must be extracted in agony and blood like a tooth from the jaw. He must be expelled from our soul by violence as Christ expelled the money changers from the temple. And we shall need to steel ourselves against his piteous begging, and to recognize it as springing out of self-pity, one of the most reprehensible sins of the human heart. If we would indeed know God in growing intimacy we must go this way of renunciation.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT NEEDS TO LEAVE, BUT I DO KNOW YOU NEED TO TAKE IT THIS SPRING

Matthew Henry - Those who are weary and heavy-laden shall find rest with Christ, and those who thirst are called to come to him and drink; for they only know how to value his gifts. To the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet, manna is angels' food; and to the thirsty fair water is honey out of the rock. Those who are rich, who are not hungry, who, like Laodicea, think they have need of nothing, are full of themselves and their own righteousness, and think they have a sufficiency in themselves, those he sends away from his door, they are not welcome to him, he sends the empty away, they come full of self, and are sent away empty of Christ. He sends them to the gods whom they served, to their own righteousness and strength which they trusted to.

- WE MUST CREATE HUNGER FOR GOD OR WE WILL COME AWAY EMPTY
- THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW.
- IT MAY NOT FEEL MOST URGENT, BUT IT IS. IT MAY NOT KEEP YOU UP AT NIGHT, BUT IT SHOULD. IT IS CRITICAL TO YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

John Piper - If we don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because we have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Our soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great.