

## **MONEY BAG: Practicing Kingdom Economics - Money and Wealth**

Icebreaker: Do you consider yourself wealthy? If not, what would it take for you to consider yourself wealthy?

*Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. (1 Chron. 29:12a)*

**The danger of wealth...**

- ***It can fuel spiritual idolatry*** – “People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” (1 Tim. 6:9-10a)

You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth... (Deut. 8:17-18)

Craig mentioned three indicators of idolatry: 1) You protect it when it is threatened. 2) You get angry when it is blocked 3) You're devastated when it is gone. Given those three indicators, could money be an idol for you? If not money, what is an idol threat?

- ***It can bring unfair judgment*** – “Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.” (Prov. 22:2)
- ***It can stunt spiritual maturity*** – “Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.” (Mark 4:18-19)
- ***It can cause serious pain*** – “The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep. I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, or wealth lost through some misfortune...” (Eccl. 5:12-14)

Which of the above four dangers of wealth, Do you see happening around you, have you personally experienced?

**The purpose of wealth...**

- ***To glorify God*** – “Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.” (Prov. 3:9)
- ***To provide for your family*** – “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Tim. 5:8)
- ***To use for God’s purposes*** – “I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.” (Luke 16:9)
- ***To bless your neighbor*** – “The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends. He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.” (Prov. 14:20-21)
- ***To enjoy God’s blessings*** – “Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work – this is a gift of God.” (Eccl. 5:19)

Of the purposes of wealth, rank each bullet according to order of importance to you? What does that reveal about who you are?

Many people know how to get wealthy but not everyone knows how to be wealthy...

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Of the study/sermon above, which area do you need work on knowing *how to be wealthy*?

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. (1 Tim. 6:17-18)*