

I. Intro

A. Series Theme: **Ecc. 7:11-12**

¹¹ *Wisdom is good with an inheritance, And profitable to those who see the sun.*

¹² *For wisdom is a defense as money is a defense, But the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it. (Ecc. 7:11-12)*

1. An inheritance and wisdom go hand in hand.
2. Foolishness and money is a recipe for disaster.

¹⁰ *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Tim. 6:10)*

B. Since we keep acquiring money, I'm going to keep trying to bring some godly sense into the equation.

1. Jesus loved to talk about money. It was one of His principal ways of getting His point across.
 - a. **Mk. 8:36**: *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"*
 - b. **Lk. 16:1**: *"There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods.*
 - c. **Lk. 16:19-20**: ¹⁹ *"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate.*
2. Since Jesus placed a premium on teaching about money, I place a premium on teaching about money.

II. The Way We View Money Is Derived From the Way We View God

A. **God Owns Everything**

¹ *The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. (Ps. 24:1)*

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1. **Ownership:** *The state of possessing exclusive rights and control over land, property, thoughts.*
(**"Ownership." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 1 Jan. 2019. Web. 5 Jan. 2019).**
 - a. *Also includes the exclusive right to enjoy, occupy, use, give away, or even destroy an item.*
(<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/ownership.html>)
 2. **Creation Validates Ownership**
 - a. **Property Law vs. Intellectual Law:** *Property law protects the rights of the exclusive possessor of (real) tangible property. Intellectual property delegates permission to use the property by the public; but does so by regulating how it is used and ensures that the author/inventor is compensated/recognized for their creativity.*
 - b. *By virtue of His creative copyright, God is the rightful owner of everything.*

B. Mankind Has Been Granted Delegated Dominion

²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen. 1:27-28)

1. Created in the very image of God.
 - a. Dominion was given to man as Image Bearers of the Creator and ambassadors of the King.
 - b. Although we were representatives, we must never get our identity, rank and position confused.
2. Mankind was granted dominion over that which rightfully belongs to only God.

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. (Gen. 2:15)

- a. Work it. Tend it. Grow it. Cultivate it. Manage it.

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- b. Mankind was granted authority over resources to serve as stewards.

Steward: *someone who has been entrusted with someone else's affairs, estate, children or finances.*

- c. The only One worthy to own is God.
 - i. Only God has the right to determine what He does with His stuff.
 - ii. When we refuse to serve as stewards (managers) of God's resources, we elevate ourselves to the place of God.
- 3. Tendency is to divide the sacred from the secular: God you rule over the churchy stuff and I'll rule over the rest.
 - a. Church building vs. My House
 - b. Prayer Time vs. Private Time
- 4. Stewardship is the snapshot of the Christian life: *"My life is not my own"*
 - a. Nothing belongs to us. We simply steward with joy, grateful that it was entrusted to us for a season.

C. God Is Pleased to Place His Resources in the Hands of Stewards

²⁷ *Blessed be God who has pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. (Psalm 35:27)*

- 1. God has pleasure in prospering those who will use His resources as tools to build His Kingdom.
 - a. God has pleasure in those who find pleasure in Him.
- 2. Money is to be a resource to bring glory to God as we enjoy Him and all that He has to offer.

²² *The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it. (Prov. 10:22)*

- a. When our passion is God, His purposes, his Kingdom... money is not a stumbling stone.
 - i. It's a part of the blessing.

ii. It's a means in which to propel the Kingdom.

3. Wealth Will Be Transferred One Way or Another.

²² *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous. (Prov. 13:22)*

- a. Generational wealth can be a love testimony to children's children... that God loves family.

III. Conclusion

A. God Has Provided Money (Partly) To Diagnose Our Hearts

¹¹ *"Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, ¹² lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; ¹³ and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; ¹⁴ when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; ¹⁵ who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; ¹⁶ who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end— ¹⁷ then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' ¹⁸ "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. (Deut. 8:11-18)*

1. Tendency is to forget that God is God.
 - a. Forget what He's brought us through.
 - b. My power and my might has done this for me.
2. Mentality Contrast
 - a. **Owner Mentality (I am the Lord)**: My life and everything in it belong to me, to do with as I please.

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- b. **Steward Mentality (Jesus is Lord)**: My life and everything in it belongs to God. Everything in my possession, control, or influence, has been entrusted to me by God to steward.
 - 3. Reviewing how we deal with money exposes our wicked hearts.
 - a. How we spend money declares that either God is God (the rightful owner and ruler of all things) or that we are.
 - 4. It is He (alone) that gives us the ability to get wealth.
 - a. He uses money as a tool in our hands to build His Covenant Kingdom and deliver us from ourselves.