

Wisdom for Living in Difficult Times

Wisdom About Money

I. Introduction

- A. Wisdom: "Having competence in the complexities of life where the moral rules or laws don't apply" (Tim Keller)

II. Why Do We Need Wisdom About Money?

- A. Because money vices are so subtle.
1. Money can corrupt integrity.
 - a. Prov. 11:1 (NAS) *A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight.*
 2. Money can distort our values and priorities.
 - a. Prov. 11:4 (NAS) *Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.*
 3. Money can magnify ourselves at the expense of others.
 - a. Prov. 11:26 (NLT) *People curse those who hold their grain for higher prices, but they bless the one who sells to them in their time of need.*
- B. Because money can accomplish much of what we want.
1. Prov. 10:15 (NLT) *The wealth of the rich is their fortress; the poverty of the poor is their destruction.*
 2. Matt. 6:24 (NAS) *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."*
- C. Because financial wisdom is at the heart of spiritual maturity.
1. Prov. 30:8-9 (NAS) *⁸Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, ⁹That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or That I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.*

III. Thoughts to Consider About the Subject of Money

- A. It's not about the money.
1. Prov. 14:30 (NAS) *A tranquil heart is life to the body, But passion is rottenness to the bones.*
- B. It is about the money.
1. Mal. 3:10 (NAS) *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.*
 2. Prov. 3:9-10 (NAS) *⁹Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; ¹⁰So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.*
 3. Prov. 29:7 (NLT) *The godly care about the rights of the poor; the wicked don't care at all.*
 4. Prov. 28:27 (NLT) *Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed.*

5. Prov. 21:13 (NLT) *Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need.*

C. Wisdom is greater than wealth.

1. Prov. 8:1, 4-11 (NLT) *¹Listen as wisdom calls out! Hear as understanding raises her voice! ⁴"I call to you, to all of you! I am raising my voice to all people. ⁵How naive you are! Let me give you common sense. O foolish ones, let me give you understanding. ⁶Listen to me! For I have excellent things to tell you. Everything I say is right, ⁷for I speak the truth and hate every kind of deception. ⁸My advice is wholesome and good. There is nothing crooked or twisted in it. ⁹My words are plain to anyone with understanding, clear to those who want to learn. ¹⁰"Choose my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge over pure gold. ¹¹For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can be compared with it."*
2. John 1:1-2, 14 (NAS) *¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

IV. Conclusion

Next Weekend's Message:

4/24-25/2010 "The Right Kind of Fear"