

If Money Could Talk | Part 2

Lesson 2

Deuteronomy 29:5; Proverbs 11:4, 24, 28, 18:11, 21:20, 22, 23:4-5, 28:20; Mark 8:36; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

April 14, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Although spiritual growth is the underlying theme of the “Ten Minas” parable (Luke 19:11-27), Jesus attracts listeners by speaking of money. In today’s language, Christ’s teaching advises putting money to work, *not* under the mattress, as the following illustrates.

A new investor purchases stock and welcomes a profitable return. But a dilemma arises, and one of two paths must be chosen.

First path: monetary gain emboldens the investor to take risky steps, to trust in his/her ingenuity to produce a vast fortune, AKA “fortified city” (Proverbs 18:11), which will confirm his/her worth and self-reliance.

Second path: the investor knows and loves God, Creator of everything, and the ultimate source of necessities that sustain human life. Grateful that God provides those essentials *and* the stock tip, the investor scatters “gifts to the poor” (Psalm 112:9), marveling that his/her “bottom line” did not shrink, which confirms Proverbs 28:20 to be factual: “A faithful person will be richly blessed”!

Memory verse: “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” —2 Corinthians 9:6

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?

1. List what each of these verses says about money.
(Proverbs 11:4, 24, 18:11, 21:20; Mark 8:36;
2 Corinthians 9:6, 11)
2. What does Proverbs 11:28 say about why one should *not* trust in riches?
3. What are disadvantages of gaining significant wealth?
(Proverbs 23:4-5)
4. When might poverty enter one's life? (Proverbs 28:20)
5. When does God bless someone *abundantly*?
(2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

3. Review Proverbs 11:4 and 28. Both verses declare wealth and righteousness to be opposite one another. Why do you think that is? (Psalm 37:16; Proverbs 15:16; Luke 16:13; 1 Timothy 6:10)

4. Proverbs 23:4 advises to “not wear yourself out to get rich....” Why not? (Job 27:8-9; Proverbs 28:20, 22; Luke 12:16-21)

