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

If Money Could Talk

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?

 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)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. Refer to Observation Question 1. What do these verses tell us about money?

 The first line of Proverbs 18:11 refers to wealth as a "fortified city," followed by the declaration that the city has "a wall too high to scale." What is this "wall" that represents security for the wealth of the affluent? (Proverbs 21:24; Romans 12:16; 1 Timothy 6:17) 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)

 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)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. In what ways could you modify your spending habits to help someone in need?

2. In what areas of your life could you be more generous in giving of your time?

3. God blesses people in proportion to their blessing of others (Proverbs 11:24-25; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15). How do these passages inspire you to follow Jesus and bless others?