



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

A-MAZE-IN Life Series, Lesson 3

Lesson Title: Money – What Will You Choose?

Take Home Point: Let God guide your spending.

Warm-Up:

Imagine you have no fund set up for your eventual retirement. A friend of yours tells you of a very interesting financial advisor who is just the person you need. You contact the advisor and set up an appointment. You enter his office and he tells you his plan. "It's a bit unusual," he begins, "I will be giving you the money to be invested. All of it. You may spend it any way you like." Wow, you think to yourself, this is quite a deal. Maybe too good to be true. But, if it is true, what a fantastic arrangement. The advisor continues. "But I promise that if you invest it with me, I can guarantee a return of somewhere between 30 and 100 times of the initial amount for your retirement. Of course, you can also keep it or spend it on yourself; and when it's gone, it's gone. The choice is entirely yours."

Read: Matthew 19:16-26; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Observation (What happened?):

How did the rich man respond to the counsel of Jesus to distribute his wealth?

What did Paul say must be joined with contentment to result in great gain?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think it's so hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven?

What kind of dangers await those who seek the world's riches?

Insight:

We tend to focus on the amount of wealth a person has. But God is generally not too concerned about the amount. What does interest him is how it is SPENT. That's why we don't have to be wealthy for money to be a problem. In today's warm-up, the advisor promised a return of 30 – 100 times the investment. Although the story is obviously fictitious, the principle is not. Read the parable Jesus told in Matthew 13 to see where those numbers came from. God gives us the little stuff of earth to help us learn to trust him, using it to invest in an eternity we can't see yet. He also gives us the free will to use it as we choose. However, in Matthew 25, Jesus teaches that God wants us to be faithful in how we use the wealth he grants us. He does not give us his gifts to be hoarded or squandered on ourselves. We are to use them to bring people into God's kingdom, and to enrich the lives of those God gives us the opportunity to bless. It is true that HOW money is spent is a good measure of a person's spiritual life.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do riches tempt you? How can you be sure God guides the way you spend your money?

Pray for the children in your small group to be alert to and resist the temptations of focusing on satisfying their desires through material wealth.

Kingdom Quest Year 2 – Lesson 3

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