



# *From Your Elders*

## **Money and Discipleship**

Luke 16:11-12

<sup>11</sup> And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? <sup>12</sup> And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? NLT Version

**Money!** A subject that is widely discussed in our world today yet a subject that many fail to see as a spiritual issue – even some who are followers of Jesus. The teaching by Jesus concerning money and possession in Luke 16 brings into focus two questions that each of us as disciples need to ask.

1. Do I understand that if I am not faithful in the use of worldly wealth then I will not be trusted with true riches?
2. Have I been faithful with those things that do not belong to me but which belong to someone else?

Money is not the prize in life. True riches are salvation in Jesus, the peace that comes through the gospel, loving God and being loved by God, and ultimately spending eternity with Him. Once we see this truth clearly, then money and possession begin to lose their charm and appeal. We begin to see wealth and possessions as things not simply for our own use and enjoyment, but rather as resources available for the kingdom and for bringing others to the gospel and true riches. Why would God give true riches and spiritual blessings to those who have proven that they cannot be trusted with worldly wealth?

The second question is both challenging and counter to what the world is telling us about money. As disciples of Jesus, we must hear the words of Jesus which tell us that the wealth and possessions we have in our control are not ours – rather we are simply stewards or managers of the things God has given us. Once we understand and accept this simply yet hard truth, we begin to see that our money and possessions are intended for use in the kingdom and for kingdom business. God has supplied the resources the church needs to accomplish its mission through the gifts he has given to each of us.

There remains a simple question for each of us to ask – what am I doing with the gifts that God has placed into my trust? It is not a question we need ask about the brother who sits in front of us each week. It is not a question we must ask about someone we believe is richer than us and has more of God's resources. It is a very personal and difficult question we must each ask in our own personal walk as disciples of Jesus. To never ask the question is to avoid clear and unmistakable teachings by Jesus. To ask and respond in a way that pleases Jesus will lead to profound changes in our lives and in the end "true riches".

May God bless you as we each seek to follow him and become disciples that trust him in all things. We who serve as elders invite you to discuss these matters with any of us if you desire to do so.

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