

James: Faith That Works: Wisdom & Money

Day 1

Danger Zone

When I was young, I would watch TV shows like "Richie Rich" and think how great it would be to be a kid and have great wealth. It never occurred to me that there was a danger inherent in having wealth. To learn more about the dangers associated with money, check out this devotional:

<https://www.paultripp.com/wednesdays-word/posts/how-dangerous-is-your-money>

Verses: Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:10, Proverbs 13:11

Prayer Topics: Contentment, Generosity, Trust

Day 2

Progress

I was recently watching a financial advice show in which a young woman confessed to being a spoiled brat. She indicated that her parents were very wealthy and had paid for all her expenses. No doubt her parents were trying to act in a loving way toward their daughter by paying for her apartment, her car, her clothes, and all of the rest of her bills. Although she was at the age where being a young professional starting a career would be appropriate, she ended up being stuck in a kind of endless adolescence. We often don't realize the difficulty in having too much money too soon. Most of us probably remember leaving home for the first time, not really knowing how you would survive as an adult with real responsibilities. I remember packing up my unreliable Datsun 260z with as many belongings as I could fit in it and setting out to drive across half the country. Most people do not take unnecessary risks, so if they feel like they do not need to strike out into the unknown to make a life for themselves, most will just stay put. This is a heart problem that is very common in the world. When God called humanity to fill the earth and subdue it, humanity responded by gathering together in one location to make a name for themselves resulting in God scattering humanity throughout the world. Money

is a signifier of worth or value, and it usually follows going out in the world to take dominion over some aspect of creation. Those who are able to do this in a new way are often rewarded to a greater degree than those who do it in a common way. If we think we can be rewarded without doing it at all, many of us will do nothing. I was recently watching a news segment about a new product that is a collar for cows and the company that invented it is currently worth 2 billion dollars even though it is a brand new product. Why would a cow collar be worth this much money? Because someone figured out a way to herd cows without fences, dogs, or cowboys by using this collar that is connected to an app on a rancher's phone telling him where all his cows are, what the state of their health is, and sends the cows where he wants them to go. If this works (and who knows if it will?) the inventor will have taken dominion over a new and previously undiscovered area of life, or at least a known aspect of life in a new and undiscovered way. Most people would not put the effort towards something like this if they could remain where they were in comfort. There are infinite ways for us to take greater and more effective dominion over the world waiting to be discovered. There are new medicines, medical techniques, and ways to improve people's lives and alleviate unnecessary suffering waiting to be found. To use money effectively, we must understand what it is and what it should be used for so that God's word might come to fulfillment on the earth. We must become wise in using money to fulfill God's purposes and to glorify

Him.

Verses: 1 Corinthians 15:58, 1 Timothy 4:6-16, Romans 12:1-2

Prayer Topics: Investment, Growth, Discipline

Day 3

Love & Faith

What is the connection between love & faith? Check out this devotional to find out:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-it-means-to-love-money>

When we love something we desire to bless it. We want to give to it, make it grow, make it become more of what it is and does. When we worship something, we value it and declare its worth. Noticing this, it is easy to see the connection between love and worship. We generally do not wish to see something of negative value become more of what it is. With this in mind, we

can also see where faith comes in, as faith is confidence or trust in something. We trust in those things that have value. When we grow to love money, we declare its value with our love and proceed to trust in it. The mistake is obvious, as money is not an end but a means. Money is a tool to show the worth of something, not a thing in itself. It is like falling in love with love or having faith in confidence. It leads nowhere. Our money should show our love in the things of God, not become something that is loved in itself. Is money a tool for you or has it become an end in itself? Do you use this tool correctly, or is there some work to do in this area? Only you know the answers to these questions, so be sure to ask them and answer them honestly.

Verses: Hebrews 11:1-6, 2 Corinthians 5:6-9, Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer Topics: Hope, Joy, Worship

Day 4

Fruit & Joy

All of our lives should be fruitful, meaning there should be a multiplication of

what God has given us. We are to use the tools God has given us to bear fruit in this world, and that fruitfulness glorifies God. When it comes to money, things are no different. Money is a tool to glorify God. The things we do with our money should be fruitful, and when they are, joy is the result. If we are using our money to bring our family together for a vacation, was it successful? Did the family grow closer, experience joy and rest, was God glorified? If we are investing in our business, did the investment bear fruit, were more people served with greater satisfaction? If we put our money to use in helping someone in need, was the need met? Did this result in a strengthened individual, with greater capacity to bless themselves and others as well as God? In money, just as in all things, we should understand that it is our job to bring the fruitfulness of glory to God. To learn more, check out this devotional on fruitfulness and joy:

<https://withallwisdom.org/2022/11/25/the-fullness-of-joy/>

Verses: 2 Peter 1:5-9, James 2:14-26, John 15:16

Prayer Topics: Progress, Abundance, Success

Day 5

Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr

One of the biggest challenges that people have especially in the so-called first world is the challenge of waiting. People as a rule hate to wait for almost anything unless it benefits them and even then they're looking at the clock wondering asking themselves how long. Waiting disarms people from their false sense of control preferring chaos rather than stillness. The fact of the matter waiting isn't stillness but development, a time of growth. Scripture teaches us that waiting teaches us how to rest in Christ Jesus by taking on His yoke and He teaches us how to find rest in Him because He prioritizes our life when we allow Him. The unfortunate reality, too many people claiming to be in relationship with God in and through Christ Jesus unfortunately never enter into the rest Christ has for us because of not learning to wait on the Lord. Waiting teaches us total dependence on God and how to number our days like we're encouraged to in Psalm 90:12. It's in waiting God teaches us how to stand securely in Him so we can rest in Him peacefully without anxiety because He's our anchor. In order to rest in Christ Jesus we must abide in Him. Hear the wisdom of Psalm 27:14, "Wait on the LORD; be of good

courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!”