

Monies of the Bible



Words to Find:
 bekah
 brass
 coins
 copper
 farthing
 gerah
 gold
 grain
 mite
 penny
 pound
 shekel
 silver
 silverlings
 talent

Luke 12:16-21

“And he [Jesus] spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits

and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

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The Rich Poor Man

D. L. Moody

I heard of a farmer who, when a friend of mine called upon him to give something for a Christian ministry, promptly wrote a check for ten thousand dollars. He wanted the agent to have dinner with him, and after they had dined the farmer took the man out on the verandah and pointed to the rich lands sweeping far away, laden with rich products. “Look over these lands,” said the farmer, “They are all mine.” He took him to the pasture and showed the man the choice stock, the fine horses he had, and then pointed to a little town, and then to a large house where he lived. His face lit up with pride as he said, “They are all mine. I came here when a poor boy and I have earned all that you see.”



When he got through, my friend asked him, “Well, what have you got up yonder?”

“Where?” replied the farmer,

who evidently knew where my friend meant.

“What have you got in heaven?”

“Well,” said the farmer, “I haven’t anything there.”

Continued on Page 2

The Heart of the Giver

Bill Brinkworth

There is nothing we do that heaven does not know about. In Luke 21:1-4 (Also in Mark 12:41-44), this is illustrated by Jesus’ observation of people giving at a temple.

Jesus was standing by the temple treasury and was watching those putting in their money to help meet the needs of the synagogue. From what was said in these verses we can learn much about what He knew about the givers then, and probably knows about those that give today. We see that Jesus knew:

§ Who gave. He saw the rich and the poor give, and knew who did not give.

Continued on Page 2

The Rich Poor Man

Continued from Page 1

“What!” replied my friend, “you, a man of your discretion, wisdom, and business ability have made no provision for your future?”

He hadn't, and in a few weeks he died — a rich man here and a beggar in eternity. A man may be wise in the eyes of the world to pursue this course, but he is a fool in the sight of God. Wealth to most men can be nothing more or less than a great rock upon which their eternity is wrecked.

The Heart of the Giver

Continued from Page 1

§ How much they physically gave. Jesus knew exactly how much a poor, widow woman gave. He knew she gave two of the smallest Greek copper coins, “mites”, to help provide for the temple's upkeep. He also knew that rich people gave far more.

§ How much their gift meant to the giver. Jesus knew the rich gave out of their extra. It was not much of a sacrifice to them; then the widow gave. Although her offering

was nothing compared to what the wealthy gave, the Saviour knew that she gave all that she had. He knew the burden she had for the work of the Lord and how giving to it was more important to her than her many earthly needs. He knew her giving was sacrificial.

Keep Jesus' observance in mind the next time you give to your church ministry. He knows if you give or not, and how much you give. Most importantly He knows what the value of the gift meant to you. Fifty cents in the offering plate may have been a lot 75 years ago, but today it is less than what a person would pay for coffee. Giving a pittance, or not as much as we could be giving, is just showing God the value we place on His ministry.

God does not need our money. Certainly, He could point any pastor to a large diamond in the world or a five pound golden nugget to meet the ministry needs. He, however, chooses for us to sacrificially give our best to keep the Gospel going out to the world and to meet the needs of others. Our giving shows Him

how important our local church is to us. What does He know about your giving?

Money Isn't Everything

Bill Brinkworth

Despite popular opinion, having wealth is not the way to happiness. Also, despite some “religious” teachings, God does not necessarily want everyone rich. Wealth brings its own set of problems; many of them being spiritual.

The danger of having much is that with it comes many temptations (I Timothy 6:9). It is easy to covet more. Few wealthy people stop after reaching their initial goal of possessions. They often desire “just a little more”. Covetousness soon is a driving sin in their life. It is not long after that a “love” for money develops, and that is where many get lost in what is important in life.

Many say, “If I had money, I would not be tempted.” Although that is possible, look around and see what destruction having a lot has caused others:

✿ Many put a priority on keeping what they have over spending time with their families and doing what is important in this life. “I have to go to work this weekend to pay the bills for what we have.” Work becomes their master, rather than the Lord.

✿ Love for wealth causes many not to want to part with it: “I can't afford to give money to my church. I need it to pay my bills.”

I finally understand why so many people get upset when a preacher preaches on giving to the Lord. When he does, those that love money have made it their “god”, and they get very upset when it appears someone is taking away their “religion”.

✿ Possession of much fools many into thinking they do not need God. I remember knocking on a wealthy man's door and asking him if he were saved and on the way to heaven. His response was, “Look around at what I have. Does it look like I need God? Look what I have accomplished without Him.” That man never understood Who allowed him to breathe each day and allowed him to earn anything he had.

✿ Possession often leads to covetousness, and coveting is a sin (Exodus 20:17). It can also lead to other sins, such as: lying and murder to keep what you have; idolatry when adoring it; stealing to get more

Money itself is not evil (I Timothy 6:10). However, possessing it can lead to problems that will take one far away from what is really important in this life, and certainly take one further from God than he would have ever imagined. It is better to be content with what you already have (I Tim. 6:6). Concentrate more on building Christian character, that will benefit you and others (I Tim. 6:11-12).

“Riches either serve or govern the possessor.” — Horace

“No man can tell whether he is rich or poor by turning to his accounting ledgers. It is the heart that makes a man rich. He is rich according to what he is, not according to what he has.”

— Beecher