

CHAPTER 9

Poverty And Riches

An Interesting Prayer Request

In Proverbs 30:8 we have a most unusual prayer request: "Give me neither _____ nor _____." Many people might ask God to keep them from poverty, but how many ask God to keep them from riches? What spiritual danger is there in being poor (Proverbs 30:9)?

_____ What spiritual danger is there in being rich (Proverbs 30:9)?

"In the Dollar Bill We Trust"

Should we trust in money or should we trust in the God who has blessed us with money and who can also take it away? "He that _____ in his riches shall _____" (Proverbs 11:28). Give three reasons why we should not trust in riches:

- 1) Proverbs 23:5 _____
- 2) Proverbs 27:24 _____
- 3) 1 Timothy 6:17 _____

What motto is found on all our coins and bills? _____
Whenever we see these words, what should we be reminded of? _____

Rich and Poor Are One!

"The rich and poor _____: the LORD is the _____ of them all" (Proverbs 22:2). The rich and the poor are as one. Just think of two drops of water on a window. What happens when these two drops come together? They become as one! There is no difference between them!

In many ways the rich and the poor are equal. There is no difference between them. They are as *one*! How did the rich and the poor enter this world (1 Timothy 6:7)?

_____ How are they going to leave this world (Psalm 49:17)?

_____ Can you think of other ways in which the rich and poor are equal? (For example, do they both need to be saved?)

In James 1:9-10 God takes the rich and the poor and He equalizes them. He brings the poor up and He brings the rich down, and thus they MEET TOGETHER! How does God bring the poor up (how does He show the poor that they are really rich)? How does God bring the rich down (how does He show the rich that they are really poor)?

Should I Seek To Be Rich?

"Labour _____ to be _____" (Proverbs 23:4). What if you spend your whole life laboring and working to be rich? What will happen one day (Proverbs 23:5)?
 _____ (Bye-Bye!) What does God call such a person
 (Luke 12:16-20)? _____

Does God want us to seek physical (material) riches or spiritual riches (Matthew 6:19-20)?
 _____ If we really seek after the right thing, will God see to it that we have everything else that we need (Matthew 6:33)? _____

"Take heed and BEWARE OF _____" (Luke 12:15). The covetous man is the man who desires to have more and more and more! He is never content and satisfied with what he has. It is one thing to possess possessions but it is another thing to be possessed by possessions! It's one thing to have money, but it's another thing for money to have you! It's one thing to have money and to use it in a way that pleases God but it's another thing to _____ money (1 Timothy 6:10).

Explain the paradox of 2 Corinthians 6:10 (if you need to, look up the word "paradox" in your dictionary). How can a poor believer make someone rich? How can a person have nothing yet possess all things?

Consider Proverbs 11:24. Here is another paradox! If you let go of wealth it will increase but if you hold on to it you'll become poor! It seems like the opposite would be true! But God blesses those who give, and those who selfishly hang on to riches end up the losers. "He is the richest man in the esteem of the world who has gotten most. He is the richest man in the esteem of heaven who has given most" (F.B. Meyer).

Loving Pleasure

He that _____ pleasure shall be a _____ man" (Proverbs 21:17). Is God saying that we are to have no pleasure? Has not God given to us all things richly to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17)? The problem is not with pleasure; the problem is with loving pleasure (loving it so much that the person seeks it most of all, "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God"--2 Tim. 3:4). The same is true with money. The problem is not with money (money is not sinful) but the real problem is with _____ (1 Timothy 6:10). As strange as it may seem, the way to enjoy pleasure is not to love it or seek it! The man who gives his whole heart and time to the love of pleasure or money is surely on the road to poverty.

How Much Will My \$1,000,000,000 Help Me?

"_____ profit _____ in the day of _____" (Proverbs 11:4). Consider Luke 16:24. In the day of wrath this man's wealth cannot buy him even one drop of _____! Will the rich man's money help him to buy off the wrath of the Lamb (see Revelation 6:15-17)? _____

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is very instructive. Read Luke 16:19-31. Now answer these questions:

In what way was the rich man rich?

In what way was the rich man poor?

In what way was the poor man poor?

In what way was the poor man rich?

When do men really find out how rich they are?

- Now, in this life
- After they pay all their taxes
- One second after they die

What Would You Rather Choose?

If you had to make a choice, would you rather be an honest poor man or a rich liar (Proverbs 19:22)? _____ Why do people lie? The honest poor man may not have very much, but what is something that he does have? _____ Are character and integrity more valuable than money? _____

Is it better to be poor and walk right or is it better to be rich and walk wrong (Proverbs 28:6)? _____ Why is this so? What is the advantage of living right?

If you had to choose between a good name and great riches what would your choice be (Proverbs 22:1)? _____ What does it mean to have a good name?

If you only have *a little*, what also should go along with it (Proverbs 15:16)?

_____ If you have great treasure you will also have great _____ (Proverbs 15:16). What kind of trouble might a rich person have?

_____ See also Proverbs 16:8 (Why is *living right* such a valuable thing?)

Poverty--You Asked For It!

Some people are poor because they ask for it! According to Proverbs 10:4, what is one reason that people become poor? _____ Is this also a possible reason why some people get poor grades in school? _____ What is the cause of the poverty mentioned in Proverbs 6:11 and 20:13? _____

What Can Riches Do?

What can riches buy (Proverbs 14:20)? _____ Is this the best kind of friend to have? _____ Why or why not?

What kind of person tends to look down on others (Proverbs 17:5)? _____ Why is this so?

"The _____ man is _____ in his own conceit (eyes)" (Proverbs 28:11). Riches can make a person proud in his own eyes so that he has this attitude: "I need nothing! I have everything I need!" What kind of person does God bless (Matthew 5:3)?

_____ He realizes how poor and needy he is! Can God help someone who thinks he needs no help? _____

How To Get Rich

Please MATCH:

- | | | |
|----------|---|---------------------|
| 1) _____ | Be humble and fear the LORD. | A. Proverbs 3:13-15 |
| 2) _____ | Seek WISDOM (if you want to be rich, find a RICH COMPANION!). | B. Proverbs 8:17-18 |
| 3) _____ | Seek the blessing of the Lord.
<i>(one of the above will take two letters)</i> | C. Proverbs 10:22 |
| | | D. Proverbs 22:4 |

If you were to die today, how rich would you be? How much treasure have you laid up in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20)? How much gold, silver and precious stones will you have (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)? Only a fool would want to be rich for a second and poor for all eternity!

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