

Lesson 22: Teaching on Wealth

Objective: To learn that everything we have, including money, belongs to God and God expects us to use it "wisely" and "unselfishly"

Background: Jesus had much to say about the righteous use of wealth (money). He taught that wealth belongs to God and we Christians must be honest and faithful in the ways we use the wealth God has given us. We must not waste our money, but use it wisely and unselfishly.

Instructions: Read carefully Luke 12:13-21; Luke 16:19-31 as if you were there to see for yourself.

Let's Think: Listen carefully to what Jesus is saying to you. One day two brothers quarreled over the property and one of them came to ask Jesus for help. But Jesus refused because He knew it was "greed" that caused the quarrel.

1. What is "greed"? (look the word up in the dictionary). Is a "greedy" person a happy person? Why? Does Jesus want us to be "greedy"? Why? (Luke 12:15)

Jesus, then, told the story of "The Rich Fool" (Luke 12:16-21)

2. Do you think the rich man was happy as he was making?

3. For whom did the rich man plan to use his goods and wealth? Count how many times he said "I" and "My" to himself? in Luke 12:16-19. Do you think the rich man was "wise" and "unselfish" in the ways he planned to use what he had? Explain.

Sometime later Jesus also told the story of "The Rich man and Lazarus" (Luke 12:19-31)

4. For what did the rich man spend his money? Did he care for the poor and the needy people – care enough to share? Give evidence to your answer (Luke 12:19-21)

5. What do you think the rich man would like to tell his five brothers if it were possible? (Luke 12:19-28) Did he and his five brothers ever take the Word of God (Moses and the prophets) seriously? Give evidence (Luk3 12:27-31, read it carefully).

6. Do you think God is pleased with the ways these rich men used their money and goods? If not, why?

Do we have to be rich to be “selfish”? If not, give examples. Are we using God’s money “wisely” if we always want new clothes, new toys, new things? Is God pleased with the ways you spend His money? If not, what changes must you make? THINK!!

Let’s Remember: “He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord (God), and He will repay him for his deed.” (Proverbs 19:17 in the Old Testament)