

Earthly Wealth

Scripture Text: Matthew 8:19

Line taken from the song “Anywhere is Home,” this sermon idea came from Brad Underwood.

- Written by John M. Henson and Homer F. Morris
- They wrote over 200 songs, including:
 - “I’ll Live in Glory”
 - “Happy Am I”

Matthew 8:19 talks about following Jesus everywhere He goes.

Thinking about earthly wealth, let us consider:

1. Riches Can Blind Us – Joshua 7
 - a. Background
 - i. When God gave Jericho to the Israelites (Ch. 2 & 6), He said very specifically not to take anything but the precious metals for the House of the Lord, Joshua 6:18-19.
 - ii. Jericho was destroyed – Joshua 6:21
 - b. God was angry at Achan – 7:1
 - i. Achan took of the accursed things
 - ii. Israel loses in battle because of this sin
 - iii. Joshua 7:10-12
 - iv. Israelites must remove themselves for the sin – 7:13-15
 - v. His guilt got to him – 7:16-21
 - vi. Ultimately, he is punished because of his “Achan eyes!” 7:22-26
 - c. Achan was blinded by his riches.
2. Riches Can Keep Us from Heaven – Matthew 19:16-22
 - a. Jesus has just been teaching on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage and instructing to be like children.
 - b. Scene
 - i. Rich Young Ruler
 - ii. Jesus
 - iii. Those around Jesus
 - c. The Question and rebuttal – v. 16-20
 - d. The kicker – v. 21
 - e. Response – v. 22
 - i. Instead of doing what Jesus told him to do, he left.
 - ii. He was rich. He enjoyed his possessions more than serving Jesus!
3. Riches can Mean Nothing if they Take Priority – Eccl. 1:1
 - a. King Solomon was described as the richest man ever to live!
 - i. I Kings 10:23
 - ii. Some math – rough 2016 figures

1. John D. Rockefeller was worth \$663.4 billion
2. Solomon worth \$2.1 trillion
- iii. Every year, Solomon received payments in gold, 666 talents in one year. I Kings 10:14. 25 tons/year one source equals it to 1 ton = \$64.3 million @ ~\$2000/oz per year for 40 years.
- iv. Extent of his wealth – I Kings 10:14-29
- b. BUT – from the man that had literally everything that money can buy – Eccl. 1:2
 - i. Eccl. 5:10
 - ii. When wealth becomes your goal, it becomes useless.

Is it wrong to have wealth? No!

But, if wealth becomes all you think about, yes as it becomes a god to you.

What do we do now?

Solomon summed it up nicely – Eccl. 12:13-14

Don't let **ANYTHING** keep you from Heaven!