

God & Money



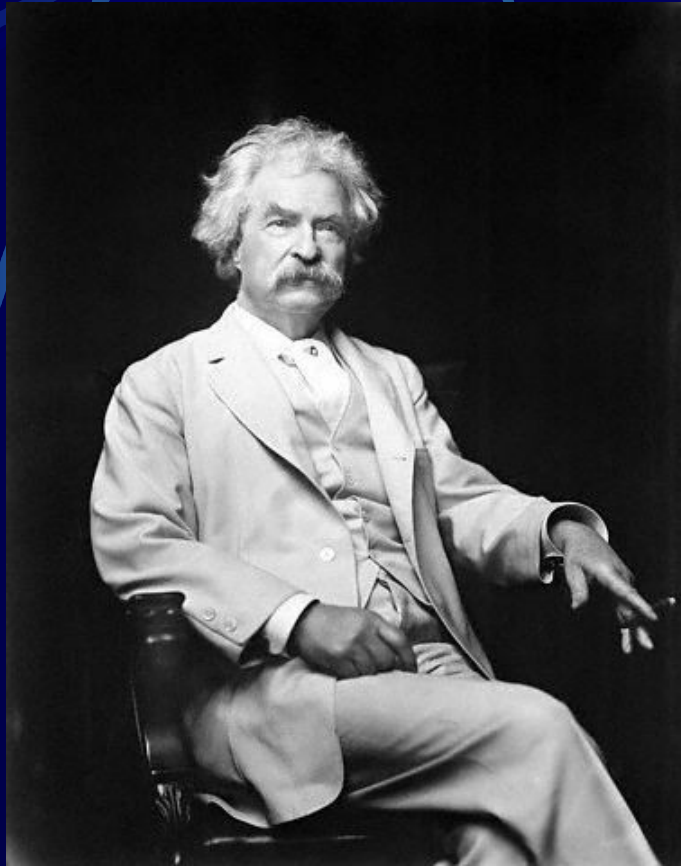
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Psalm 62:10

- “... though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.”



Mark Twain Said:



- “Some men worship rank, some worship heroes, some worship power, some worship God...but they all worship money.”

A Bit Exaggerated?

- Perhaps.
- But time has confirmed Twain's point.
- Worship of wealth explains why Jesus said the things He did in two encounters with rich men



Jesus Ministered in a Very Poor Country



- Yet, he had much to say about money, possessions, and eternity. He spoke more on this subject than about faith, prayer, eternal life! Why? Because He knew money matters is where Satan most effectively “gets” most of us, whether we are poor, middle class or rich.

The Rich Young Ruler



- “Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, ‘Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?’

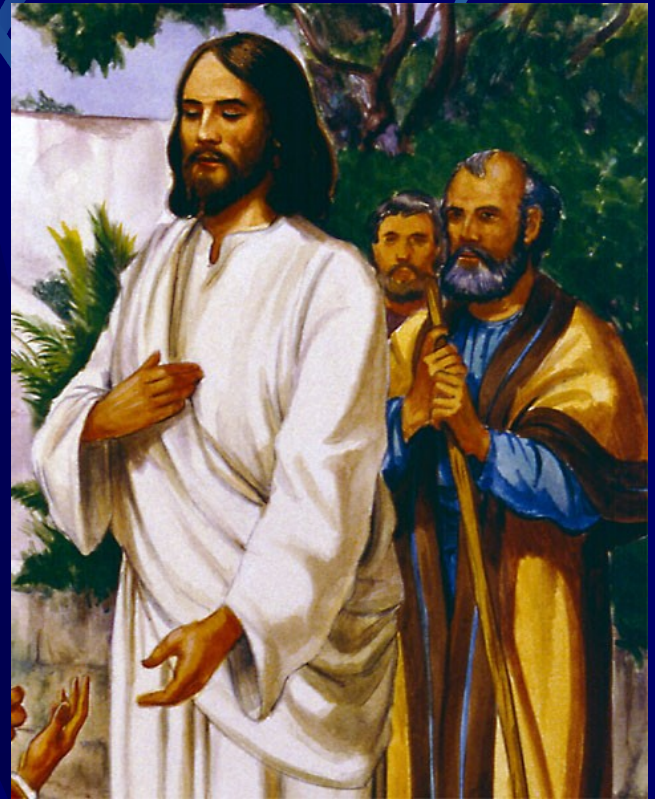
He Wasn't Satisfied

- “The gospel doesn't tell us where his money came from, but the guy's got bank. He has every treasure his heart ever desired, everything you think would bring him satisfaction. Yet, he wasn't satisfied with all his stuff, and he knew it.”



The Rich Young Ruler

- "... Jesus replied, 'If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.'"



The Rich Young Ruler



- “Which ones?” the man inquired.
- Jesus replied, ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.’”

The Rich Young Ruler

- “All these I have kept,” the young man said,
- “What do I still lack?”



The Rich Young Ruler



- “Jesus answered, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me.’”

The Rich Young Ruler

- “When the young man heard this, he went away sad,
- because he had great wealth.”



The Rich Young Ruler



- “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘...it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle...’”

The Rich Young Ruler

- When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked,
- “Who then can be saved?”





- “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Matthew 19:16-26 NIV

LUKE 12:13

- “Someone in the crowd said to Him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’”



Luke 12:14

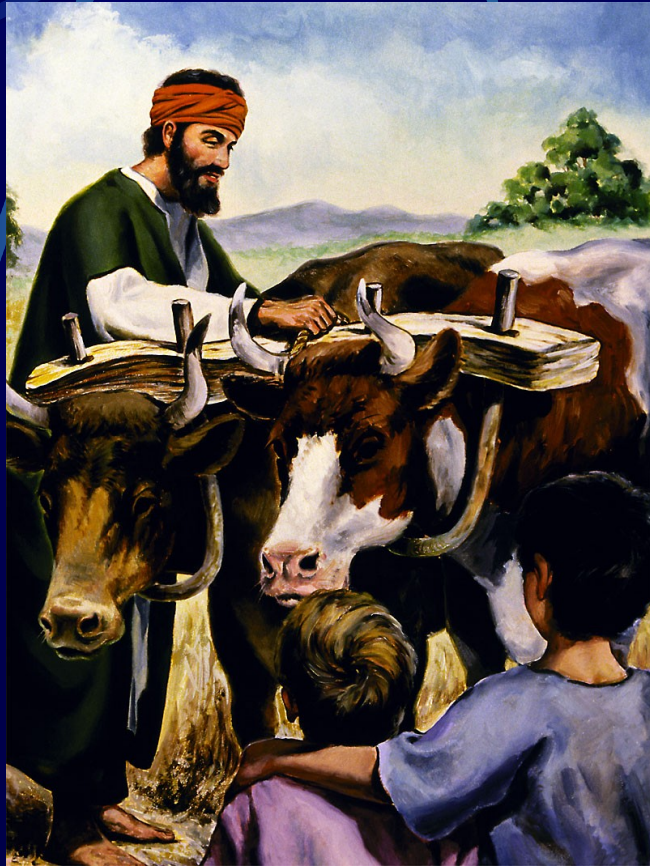


- “Jesus replied, ‘Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?’

- “Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed;
- a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’”



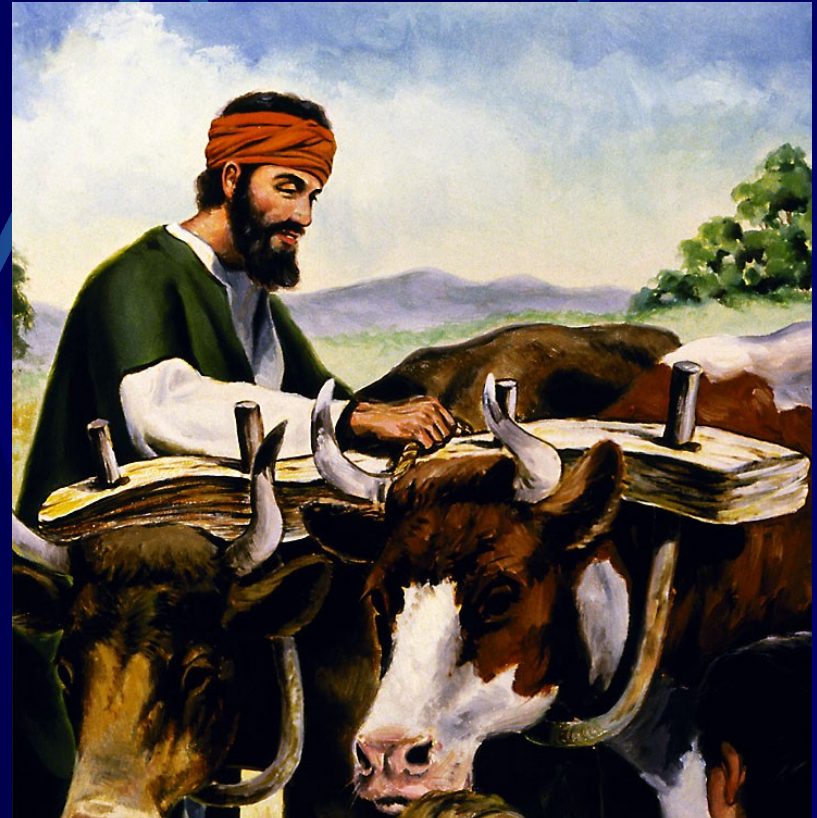
The Rich Fool



- “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops...’”

A Business Plan

- “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do, I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’



THIS I'LL DO



- “And I’ll say to myself “you have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.””

A MAN WITH I TROUBLE

- “Six times in the text, the man speaks about himself with the first-person pronoun ‘I.’ Never does he suggest that any of this surplus ought to go to help the needy who...would have constituted about 80% of the peasants and villagers surrounding him.”



LUKE 12:20

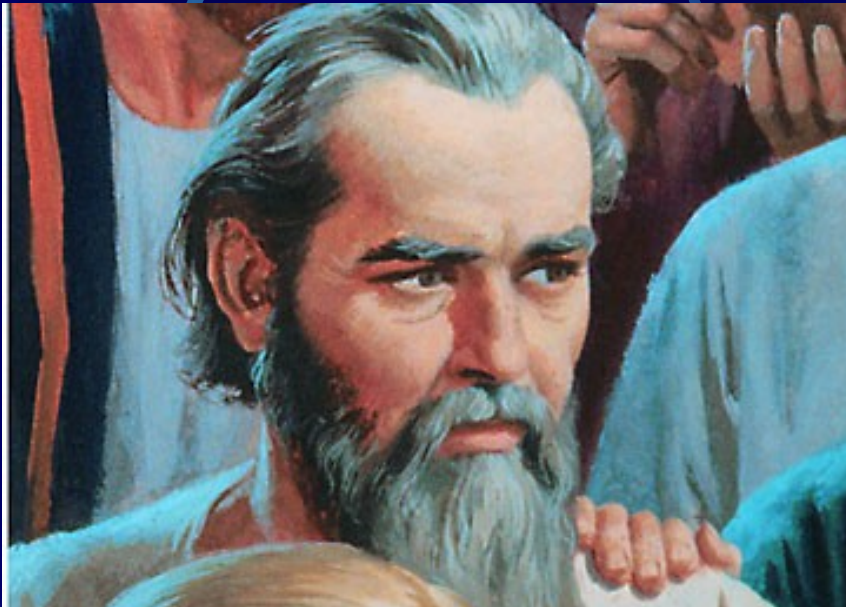
- “But God said to him, ‘You fool!’”





- “This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then *who will get* what you have prepared for yourself?”

What Have You Done?



- i.e. How does your Will read?

Jesus' SAID:

- “This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”
- Luke 12:13-21 NIV.



Steward



- The rich fool was “not rich toward God” (Luke 12:21); that is, he did not handle money in a God-centered way.

Better to give



- He was self-centered, hoarding and stockpiling money and possessions rather than releasing them to serve God and meet the needs of others.

Ask God's Counsel

- He was too self-sufficient and independent to ask God's counsel on how much to keep and how much to give,



Business vs. Meeting Needs



- preoccupied with the business of “success” to open his heart in love to meet the needs of those around him.

Duet 8:18



- It is God who gives us life, strength, time, talents, influence, speech and other endowments.
- Without these blessings from on high we could not earn even one cent

Lost Sight of Eternity

This farmer was so consumed by his money that he lost sight of what really matters.



Love Money More



- Basically, the love for money and wealth was more than the love for God, and thus he proved who had his loyalty.

possession vs. Eternal Life

“For how is a man benefited if he should gain the whole world and he should lose his soul?” mark 8:36



The Rich Become Poor



- They sold their place in eternity for a few monetary pleasures here.

Think About This:

- No one can buy his or her way into the kingdom of heaven.
- No amount of money is sufficient to get a single soul there.

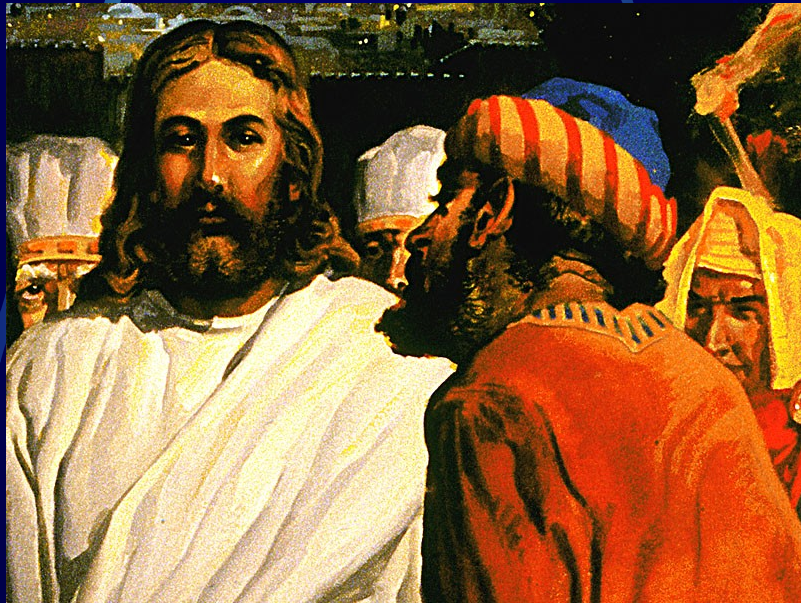


Paid in Full:

- The Price has already been paid *in blood.*



What's the Price of Heaven?



- it doesn't take much money to keep a person out of heaven!

What Price?

- A million dollars, when contrasted to the promise of eternity, is just a pile of rubbish.
- Souls will be lost for a lot less than a million dollars.



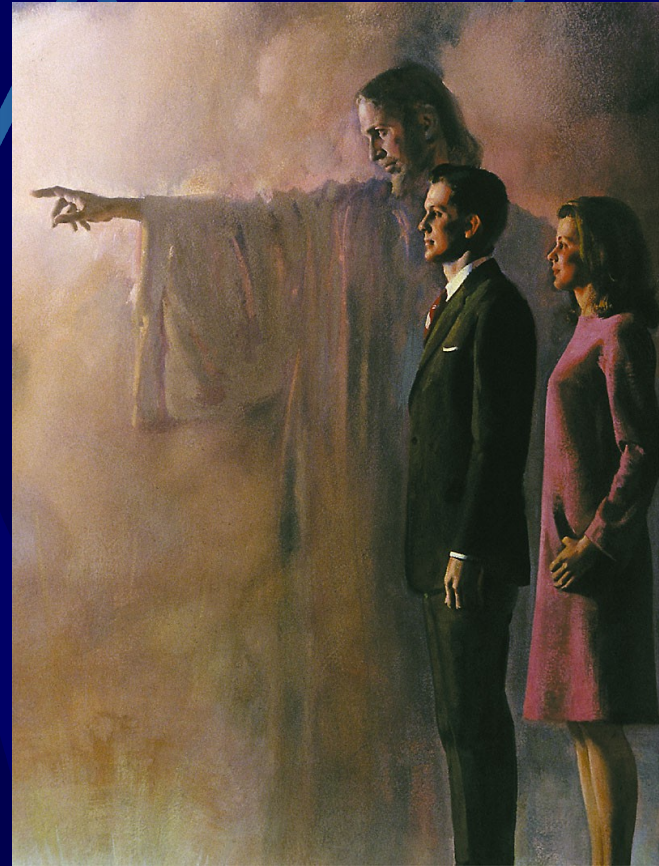
Is Money important?



- Money, of course, has its place.
- The problem is that it can so easily get *out of its place* and get into places it does not belong.

Jesus' Counsel:

- “Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” Luke 12:15.



Living What We Believe



- Though we all claim to believe those words, trying to live out that belief is not always so easy.

Money is Blinding

- Money has a powerful lure upon people that can blind them from seeing what they need to see.



Things Money Can Buy



- Food & Clothing
- Housing
- Transportation
- Health care
- Entertainment
- Utilities
- Other?

Things People Think Money Can Buy:

- Happiness
- Power
- Influence
- Position
- Popularity
- Security
- Other?



Things Money Definitely Cannot Buy:



- Happiness
- Joy
- Fulfillment
- Honor
- Respect
- Eternal Life
- Other?

Jeremiah 9:23,24

- “Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches. But let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord.”

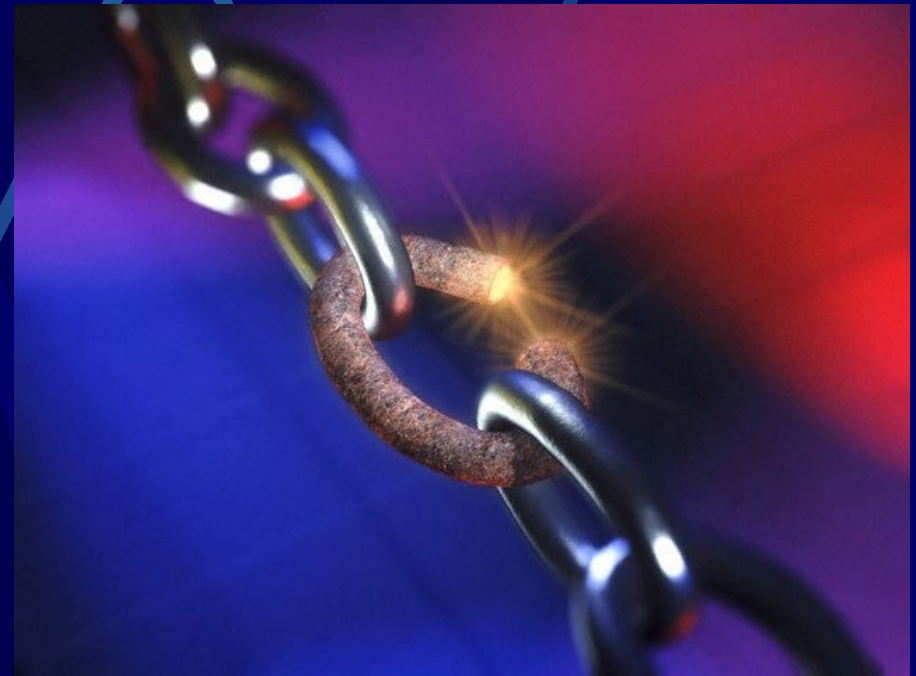
Slave bands to be Broken

- “Whatever shall draw away your heart from God must be given up.
- Mammon is the idol of many.
- The love of money, the desire for wealth, is the golden chain that binds us to Satan. . . .



Slave Bands to be Broken

- Reputation and worldly honor are worshiped by some
- The life of selfish ease and freedom from responsibility is the idol of others. But these slavish bands must be broken.
- We cannot be half the Lord's and half the world's.”
SC 44.

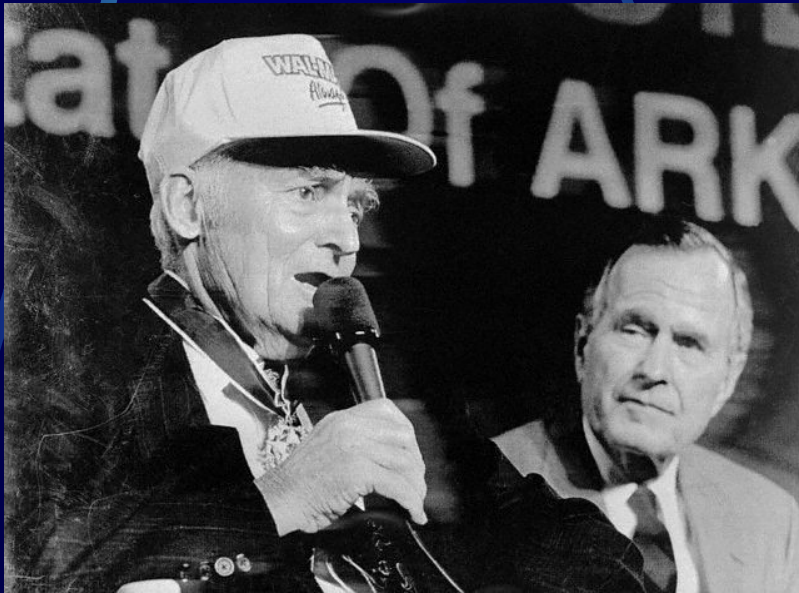


So, “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?”

- Our obsession with millionaires doesn't always live up to reality.
- A study of more than 1,000 millionaires yields some surprising conclusions.



Characteristics of Millionaires



- They aren't jet-setters flying here and there, and they aren't the fashion models shown on television.
- They didn't make their money overnight –or during market hours.

Television

- If television is the mirror of our society, then it has caught the mood of the times.
- Millionaire shows are popular, winning a million in an hour or less



No Time for Traditional Values



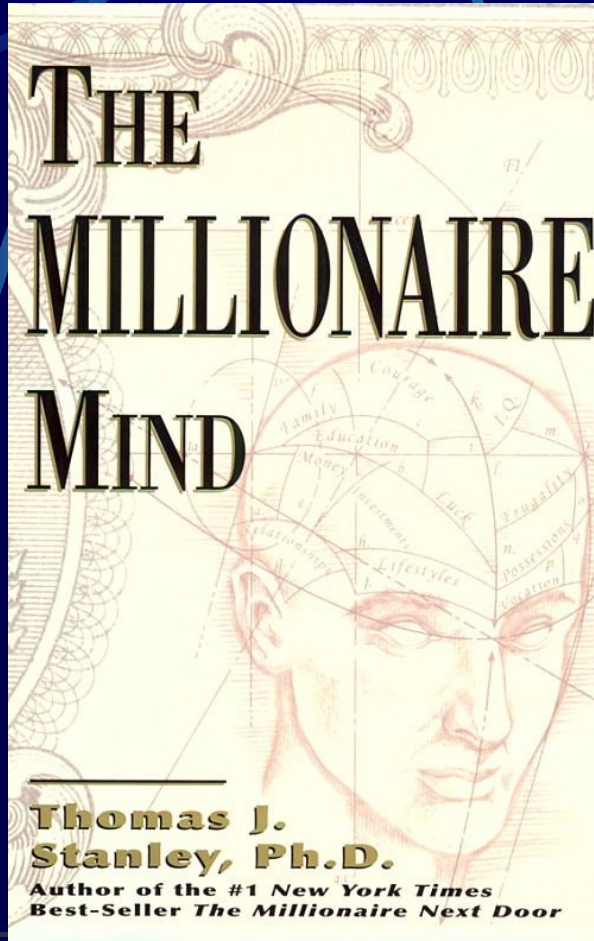
- Why bother spending less than you earn -- and investing the difference -- to create wealth?
- But appearances can deceive.

“The Millionaire Mind”

- Balance-sheet millionaires vs. those who live an affluent lifestyle while burdened by debt.



Characteristics of Millionaires:



- Own their homes without a mortgage
- Homes valued at \$355,000*
- Tend to build businesses not wealth
- Not wasteful

Not Wasteful Illustrated

- They buy expensive shoes, but almost all have them resoled.



Committed and Faithful



- They remain married to supportive and responsible spouses who run economically productive households, clipping coupons and buying in bulk.

Bottom Line

- *They spend less than they earn.*
- Look to the stock market to grow capital.
- Rarely visit a casino or buy lottery tickets.



Surprisingly



- These stable qualities are the reason they got wealthy.
- Were not tops in their classes – only average
- Result: they developed determination and

Two Key Characteristics

- They think differently from the crowd
- They have a strong belief in themselves.



Have the Basic Rules Really Changed?



- Just because technology is changing the way we communicate, shop and plan?
- The principles of handling money haven't changed.

Who is “Prosperous”?

- “A recent survey of 12,000 Australians has found only 5 percent of millionaires think of themselves as prosperous, and even among households with a net worth of more than \$3 million, the figure is only as high as 20 percent.”



Ironic

- “It seems almost ironic that the same percentage of those in the lowest income bracket (less than \$25,000 per year) report “total satisfaction” as those in the highest income bracket (more than \$100,000).



Low “Total Satisfaction”



- Both these groups had just a 9 percent “total satisfaction” response. The figures skew still further when asked about “total satisfaction with life”: lowest income 21 %; highest income—13%.

Richer... Less Satisfied

- “It seems that the richer that we become, the less satisfied we are with our incomes—it’s as if our levels of desire always stay ahead of our actual levels of income,” said Clive Hamilton, executive director of the Australia Institute.



The “Deprived” Rich



- “The Government says it wants a prosperous nation, but as long as success is measured by money, Australians will always feel deprived.”

True Wealth is Created:

- Success comes from patient partnership with God and His principles over a long run.



What We Need Today



- What we need very badly these days is a company of Christians who are prepared to trust God as completely now as they know they must do at the last day.” A. W. Tozer

Satan: the Lord of Materialism

- “Mammon” is but an alias of the Prince of Darkness, who has vested interests in whether or not we understand and obey Christ’s commands concerning our money and possessions.



An Eternity Statement



- Our use of money and possessions is a decisive statement of our eternal values.
- What we do with our money loudly affirms which kingdom we belong to.

A Right Perspective

- The key to a right use of money and possessions is a right perspective—an eternal perspective.
- What I do today has tremendous bearing on eternity.
- The everyday choices I make regarding money are of eternal consequence.



The Lie:

- Never have so many Christians believed the lie that our money and possessions are ours to do with as we please.



All That We Need:



- “He who has God and everything has no more than he who has God alone.” C.S. Lewis

Character Index



- Money is an exact index to a man's true character. All through Scripture there is an intimate correlation between the development of a man's character and how he handles his money. Richard Halverson.

Confidential Giving

- “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.” Matt. 6:3 NIV.



A Boy's Last Wish

- “Battling an incurable brain tumor that blinded him, Mak Shulist, 9, asked the Make-a-Wish Foundation to do something



Not for Himself, But for Others



- ...for his Friends!
- He asked the organization to build a rock-climbing wall on the playground of Ellisville Elementary School in St. Louis, MO.

Selfless and Caring



- “It says a lot about the family and the type of person he was—selfless, thoughtful and caring,” said David Knes, his school principal.

Mak's Legacy

- Mak Shulist, age 9, died a few days later, April 9, 2004.



A Prayer

- Lord, open our eyes to that which we find difficult to see—
 - anything that could become an idol and turn us from your will.
 - We ask this for our children's sake as well as our own.
 - Amen.



A. W. Tozer



- “Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth.
- Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality.”

PLANNING FOR THE

*Cycle
of
Life*