

DON'T DESIRE TO BE RICH

“Rejoice and be glad at such a time and exult and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is rich and great and strong and intense and abundant in heaven; for even so their forefathers treated the prophets. But woe to (alas for) you who are rich (abounding in material resources), for you already are receiving your consolation (the solace and sense of strengthening and cheer that come from prosperity) and have taken and enjoyed your comfort in full [having nothing left to be awarded you].”

– Luke 6:23-24

Jesus’ teachings directly challenge the world’s obsession with wealth and prosperity. He warns that those who are rich in this life have already received their reward, leaving nothing for them in eternity. Instead, Jesus pronounces a blessing on those who are poor, lowly, and afflicted, for the kingdom of God belongs to them.

“And solemnly lifting up His eyes on His disciples, He said: Blessed (happy—with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, apart from your outward condition—and to be envied) are you poor and lowly and afflicted (destitute of wealth, influence, position, and honor), for the kingdom of God is yours!”

– Luke 6:20

A WARNING AGAINST RICHES

Many false prophets today claim that God desires for His followers to be materially rich. Yet Jesus taught the opposite, calling wealth a potential curse. He even instructed a rich man who believed in Him to sell all he had and give it to the poor as a step toward spiritual perfection.

“Jesus answered him, If you would be perfect [that is, have that spiritual maturity which accompanies self-sacrificing character], go and sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; and come, be My disciple [side with My party and follow Me].”

– Matthew 19:21

Jesus also warned that the deceitfulness of wealth chokes out the Word of God, preventing it from bearing fruit.

“As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the Word, but the cares of the world and the pleasure and delight and glamour and deceitfulness of riches choke and suffocate the Word, and it yields no fruit.”

– Matthew 13:22

The difficulty of entering God’s kingdom with wealth is undeniable. Jesus compared it to a camel passing through the eye of a needle—an impossible feat without divine intervention.

“And Jesus said to His disciples, Truly I say to you, it will be difficult for a rich man to get into the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to go into the kingdom of heaven.”

– Matthew 19:23-24

BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS

False teachers often exploit people’s covetousness, promising wealth in exchange for their devotion or financial support. These wolves twist Scripture to promote a prosperity gospel that contradicts Jesus’ teachings.

“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”

– 2 Peter 2:3

TRUE RICHES ARE SPIRITUAL

The riches God offers are eternal and cannot be stolen or lost. These include love, faith, hope, peace, joy, forgiveness, mercy, grace, and the Holy Spirit. You are rich because you are one with Jesus, who placed no value on material wealth. In fact, He entrusted His treasury to a thief, showing how little He cared for earthly riches.

“Now he did not say this because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief; and having the bag (the money box, the purse of the Twelve), he took for himself what was put into it [pilfering the collections].”

– John 12:6

CONCLUSION

Jesus taught that the pursuit of wealth is not the path to God’s kingdom. True riches are found in a life lived for Him, filled with the treasures of His Spirit. Reject the false promises of worldly riches and embrace the eternal inheritance that comes through faith in Christ.

Your reward is in heaven, where it cannot be diminished or taken away. Rejoice in your spiritual wealth, for it reflects the true value of a life in Christ—an abundant life not measured by material possessions but by the fullness of His grace and presence.