

- > **Great Day**.... Welcome to another message, brought to you by "**Discovery Crossroads Ministries**"..... a ministry where we believe, with God: "**Dead-ends, can become Alive again!**"
- > I've heard it said about money, "**Hey, you CAN'T take it with you when you die, so why not spend it?**" Ok, the first half of that statement is true, but the spending part is questionable! If one was to spend all their money, then "**WHAT**" is it spent on... on oneself, or on others? ...(your answer to that question, gives you a sneak peek into your own heart!) So, Where does YOUR Wealth go?



- I want to point out **2 Patterns of Wealth**, that we all typically live into in our lives. Jesus did some teaching on these Patterns - *so let's see what He said...*
- **The first Pattern** that He spoke of is:

1) **False Wealth**...

- > There is a parable found in **Luke 12** (*that we will speak to in a minute*), that is entitled: "**Rich Fool**".
But, Why is the parable labeled: "Rich Fool" (RF)?...

Because "**the Fool**" is the person who does NOT understand, or believe, that: **God IS real** – *and that*: **NOTHING goes into the next life with us, after we die... (NOTHING, but NOTHING - goes with us!)**

- **Psalm 49:16-17**, "16 So don't be dismayed when **the wicked grow rich** and their homes become ever more splendid. 17 **For when they die, they take nothing with them. Their wealth will not follow them into the grave.**"
NLT.....(*Surely, the RF does NOT operate from a heart of belief*)

- This passage says that: **the RF "grows Rich"**, and doesn't recognize "**God's Hand**" in having given them their Wealth. **So**, they place **Confidence in their OWN providence** – placing Wealth (*and the security of it*), as their life's **TOP Priority!** They quickly become **Secure in themselves**, losing sight that: they **CANNOT SAVE THEMSELVES, WHEN THEIR LIFE ON EARTH IS OVER!**

...The first thought here is: **The RF** is the person who is: **deceived**.....**deceived from God's Truths, in their mind.**
For one: they get **consumed** with their **thoughts** of "**Self-security**"..... *But then*, they get **distracted** by **activities** to only fulfil their "**earthly Wealth quests**" (*adventures*), to gain more for their own "**self-security**".
...(once distracted, they get a "**long way off**" from God)

...The second thought is: **The RF** grows: **shallow & selfish**.....

Inwardly, they begin to “**store away**” material-wealth, **for themselves**..... The Pattern (*habit*) of their storing away, becomes their life’s quest – *indeed, their only venture*. Nowhere in their thoughts, is the needs of God (*or, what God needs done on this earth*). **Meanwhile**, poor human beings **go without** everyday, while the **RF** fills his own house with his excess.

-- **The worst part is**: the **RF is NOT Rich** towards God.

This means: they **do NOT have a relationship with God**...
...(*they are people who live their life, apart from God*)

Instead, **they have a Great love & relationship with their wealth**.....(*again, NOT recognizing that God gave them their wealth to use for His Glory - NOT for their own!*)

- Look at this passage: **Luke 12:13-21**, “*13 Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.” 14 Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” 15 Then he said, “**Beware - Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.**” 16 Then he told them a story: “**A rich man** had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. 17 He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ 18 Then he said, **I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build***”

bigger ones. *Then I'll have room enough to store all **my** wheat and other goods. 19 And **I'll sit back** and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now **take it easy - eat, drink, and be merry!**""*
20 "**But God said** to him, '**You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?**'"
21 "Yes, **a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth, but NOT have a rich relationship with God.**" NLT

...The Rich man in this story, has a "***fertile field***" that God gave him. The field produces great crops, and makes the man a lot of money! The man even tears down his smaller barns, to build bigger ones – all to store MORE of his produce & other goods. **But**, he gets "**OBSESSED**" with his success & wealth, and can only think about making MORE, so that he can do as **verse 19** says, "***take it easy, eat, drink, and be merry***". He didn't understand the truth of **verse 15**, "**Guard against greed... Life is NOT measured by how much you own**".

...**In essence**, Jesus is saying that: "***our Greediness, or our Generosity - IS the measurement of our life!***"...(that is: *our life might be measured by: "how Greedy we are, versus how Generous we are?"*)...

...**Sadly**, the Rich man ***missed what life was all about...*** (*that: life is NOT just about having Money - but its more*

about: providing for one's family - taking care of your neighbor - helping strangers - giving to the poor - funding programs that help the helpless - giving of yourself, for the betterment of society – etc. etc.)

...the Rich man's "**Greed & Obsession**" got so bad, that God slams him in **verse 20**, "**You fool, you will die this very night - then who will get everything you worked for?**"

...(iow: **You Rich Fool**, you will die soon enough, and your Wealth will do you no good, anymore! – Do you NOT even care about your own **Eternal salvation**, given only by Jesus Christ, thru having a relationship with Him?)

...**Lastly**, **Luke 12:21** justifies the Truths of this message, when it says: "**Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth, but NOT have a RICH relationship with God.**"

- (People store up all kinds of junk, in/of this world – but they completely overlook their "**Eternal-Wealth**"...that is: Wealth, that "**GOD measures**", as your life's success!)

...(Let me repeat that last part: "**Wealth, that "GOD measures", as YOUR life's success!**"

-- **Folks**, on the "**lowest**" level (**surface level**), the **RF SEEMS** successful & wealthy to other people. **But**, on the "**highest**" level (**soul level / the God level**), he/she is **REALLY** just a **Spiritually "Poor Fool"**.

-- Danny Thomas, founder of "**St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**" - said this, "**Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It is what you do for others.**" Amen!

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> As often in this world, there are "**comparisons**"...(the flip side to a coin, if you will)... **So**, let me speak to "**another option**" (**the Second Pattern of Wealth**), that human beings live into. Besides someone having "**False Wealth**", there is the ability for people to have:

## 2) **True Wealth**....

-- Here, I label the person, who understands what Real wealth is, as a: "**Rich Sage**" (RS)!...

...The term "**Sage**" means: "**a profoundly Wise person**".

Here the person believes that: "**Faith in God, must be MORE VALUABLE, than faith in worldly wealth!**"

-- The RS is: the person who may **NOT** look Wealthy to the people around them - but who **IS Rich towards God**. They are 1) sold-out, in belief & faith to God - and **2) they know that everything they have, has come from God - and should be used to His Glory!** That's why God was frustrated with the Rich man in the parable, spoken of a bit ago... because

*he neither saw his blessings as have coming from God, nor did he use them for God's Glory... he used them for his "selfish" self! The apostle James said in **James 1:17**, "Every good and perfect **gift is from above, coming down from the Father** of the heavenly lights." NIV*

a) **The RS** loves God with **ALL** their heart, soul & mind.....

-- **Matthew 22:35-40**, "35 One of them (Pharisee), an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: 36 **"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"** 37 Jesus replied, **'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind'**. 38 **This is the first and greatest commandment.** 39 **A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'**. 40 The entire law, and all the demands of the prophets, are based on these two commandments." NLT

-- In this story, the Pharisee asked Jesus, "**What is the **MOST IMPORTANT** commandment?"** Jesus said, (*First & Foremost*) "**You MUST love the Lord your God, with ALL of heart, and ALL of your soul, and ALL of your mind."**

...**Now**, there are **3** "**ALL's**" in that passage. **So**, loving God with **just** ALL of your heart, falls short of Jesus' commandment. Or loving God with **just** ALL of your soul, falls short of Jesus'

commandment. The same goes for loving God with **just** ALL of your mind, making it fall short of Jesus' commandment.

\* Jesus is saying: the person is a "**Sage**" (a **profoundly wise person**), because they **indeed** love God with their **EVERYTHING** – with ALL of their heart, **And** ALL of their soul, **And** ALL of their mind!...(with "**every drop**" of the heart, soul & mind, together).

- Jesus is saying the person is "**RICH**", because they were **WISE enough** to "**Trust & Love God**", with their **EVERYTHING** - *even with all of their Wealth!*

--- Do not forget that Jesus said the "**Second Most Important**" commandment, is to "**love your neighbor, as yourself**" ...(how: *love your neighbor, as well as you love yourself*)  
The RS **loves** God... but also **obeys** God, by loving others!

**b) They Keep God's Commandments.....** [John 14:15](#) says, "**If you love Me, OBEY My commandments.**" NLT  
(When the RS loves God, they want to make Him smile.....  
...they make God smile, when they truly LOVE OTHERS!)

-- [1 Timothy 6:17](#) God says, "**17 Teach those who are rich in this world, not to be proud - and not to Trust in their money (wealth) - which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.**"  
...(**The RS totally "TRUSTS GOD" – NOT money/wealth!**)

...**Also**: in [1 Timothy 6:18-19](#) God says, "*18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works, and generous to those in need - always being ready to share with others. 19 By doing this, they will be storing up their treasure, as a good foundation for the future - so that they may experience true life.*" NLT

...(The RS is Generous, doing Good works to others  
"WITH" their Wealth – NOT hogging their Wealth...)

-- **God owns everything** - giving to us as He desires... If God puts Wealth in your pockets, He expects you to use it as He directs... [John Wesley](#) believed this, and even said, "*When I die, if I leave ten pounds (excess money) behind me, you and all humanity may bear witness against me - that I have lived and died a thief and a robber.*" **Wow!**

-- By **doing good** and **taking care of others**, the RS **Stores away** blessings from God...(verse 19, "stored in heaven") They **store up** blessings, by GIVING AWAY what they have - *all for the Glory of God*. That's how **Believers (Rich Sages)** function in this life, **KNOWING** that God **WILL** bless them later, with Richs far Greater than what this world could ever give or imagine! **Believers (Rich Sages) WILL** "**INHERENT**", the **Kingdom of God**, and ALL that is found within it – *things that no eye or mind could ever imagine!*

\* **He WILL** bless those who **OBEY** Him and Give! [Hebrews 6:10](#), *"For God is not unjust. **He will not forget how hard you have worked for him - and how you have shown your love to him, by caring for others...**"* NLT (*Yes Jesus says, "When you helped one of the least of your brothers or sisters of Mine (and, everyone is His) - you did it for Me!"*)

... The great **Bob Hope** said, **"If you haven't got any CHARITY in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble."**

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3) Folks, God's Light, will **Reveal** Everything...

-- As I said earlier: **GOD** will Measure our life's success... NOT by the measure of some man or woman - nor by any earthly, social, standards - nor by how much Wealth that we stored away! **But, The Light of His Continnence**, will illuminate the Best & Worst of our life. Whatever we did with our life on earth, will be **Revealed** on **The Day** that we come "**Face to face**" with the Lord.... [1 Corinthians 3:12-15](#), *"12 If anyone builds on this foundation (The Gospel of Jesus Christ) using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 **their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.** 14 If what has been built **survives**, the builder will receive a **reward.** 15 If*

it is **burned up**, the builder will **suffer loss**, but yet will be saved even though only as one escaping through the flames."
...(Giving to others, DOES INDEED affect your life!)

> The message is called: "**Unparalleled Wealth**", because **there is NO parallel between the Rich Fool and the Rich Sage**. They ARE NO parallels (*similarities*), in anyway. The **RF** stores up wealth for themselves, while **the RS gives away** wealth for the Glory of God...(and generosity will be rewarded)

-- It has been said, "**Gold can make a fool, out of any man!**"
...(I will say the same about "**having great wealth**"!)

...Echos from the past, have said that: **men with "gold-fever", actually went crazy (out of their sane mind) – even killing family & friends for it**. Once in that state of mind, they did not resemble, anything that looked like what a human being should look like! They were filled with pure Greed, which lead them to commit great evils.

- **Sadly**, a "**Fool's gold**" will grieve & haunt a person's soul, into Eternity! **Goodness**, don't let **NOG** (the "Notion of Greed"), ever take root in your noggin!...(it causes damage)

...So many people, in the old gold-rush days (*mid 1800's*), chased gold that they never found! They gave their lives, to getting little golden rocks! Many died WITHOUT knowing

God, and their souls were lost forever! **Is chasing Wealth really worth the Cost of losing our soul to Hell for? What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world (a chunk of gold), yet forfeit their soul?**

-- The **Rich Sage** parable is an illustration, given to us by Jesus...

On the **earth**, the RS looks poor to the people around them. **BUT**, **heaven** sees them as vastly wealthy – *for they literally own stock (or, an inheritance) in the Wealthiest Kingdom in existence – God’s Kingdom.* They bought into God’s Kingdom, by **1) accepting** Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord - and **2) by obeying Him**, to give away the earthly possessions that distracts their life, from **Turning to & Trusting God**, with their very soul. Paul said this (Phil. 3:8), “**I consider everything a loss, because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord - for whose sake, I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.**” NIV**Do you? Do you consider your Wealth as LESS important, than Knowing Christ’s and His Eternal salvation – Or, Do you consider your Wealth, to be MORE important than Him? “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God, and be enslaved to money”**

*** God, must be your “Forever Treasure”! Is He yours?**

Discovery questions:

- 1) Is it really true that **Nothing** of this world (*I mean NOTHING*), goes with us to heaven? If the answer is “yes”, then why do we chase after tons of earthly wealth; even stock-piling it?
- 2) In Luke 12:20, the rich man (*in the parable*), was called by Jesus a “Rich Fool” – why did Jesus say that?
- 3) Luke 12:20 asks: At the end of your life, WHAT is it that someone will get, of all the things that you left behind (*all the stuff that you chased after*)? And, just what was the VALUE of all that you left them – be it: earthly perishable things, or heavenly imperishable things? What kind of perishable “Fool’s Gold” will you be passing on to your loved ones?
- 4) Jesus said that: Trusting in your earthly wealth is NOT as important, as it is to Trust in God – But, do you believe this?
- 5) Jesus said (*in Matthew 19:24*) that: “*It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than it is for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God*”. So, Why do you suppose that He said that?
- 6) Do you believe that “excessive Greed”, can take root in our soul, and cause a person to lose their mind (*or, lose their sense of what is good & bad, and what is right & wrong*)?

- 7)** Jesus laid a hard claim on us in Luke 12:15, that: "*life is NOT measured by how much you own*" – So, what impact does that have on your soul, and HOW you spend your wealth?
- 8)** Danny Thomas (*the founder of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital*) asks you: "Is there CHARITY in your heart, and in your hands"?
- 9)** A major theme in this message was: Jesus saying (*in Luke 12:21*), "*a person is a fool to STORE UP earthly wealth, but NOT have a rich relationship with God*". Is there a key in Jesus words "store up" earthly wealth? Is there another key to Jesus saying, "Not having a RICH relationship with God"? What is the difference in the storing up of wealth here?
- 10)** The rationale of 1 Timothy 6:18-19, is to: "*Be Rich in God's sight, by Doing good works, and Being generous with your wealth*" – So, how hard is that for people to do? Don't we really like to hoard our money, or use it on ourselves?
- 11)** Doesn't this message really come down to: "WHAT or WHOM you place your life's Trust (*Security*) in"? Isn't Jesus really saying, "You could be Trusting in your earthly wealth right NOW, but it might be causing you to fall short of Trusting in God for your ETERNITY"?

- 12)** Has gaining Wealth, become the priority of “your” life? Are you actually “obsessed” with it?
- 13)** Do you GIVE “**ALL**” of your heart, soul & mind to God? If not, how much do you give Him?
- 14)** How would you rate the Worth (*Value*) of your relationship with God, in & thru Jesus Christ, right now – Rich or Poor?
- 15)** If we really believed in the words of Hebrews 6:10, that: *“God will NOT forget the good that we do for others”* – How might that change the way you see the use of the wealth that God has given you? Would you really use the money on others, instead of on yourself? Remember, 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 says that: Everything that we did on this earth, will be revealed on the Day of The Lord – it will be revealed by God’s all-consuming fire!
- 16)** Ultimately, doesn’t this message come down to whether you believe that: 1) God has given you all the wealth that you have, or 2) that you really just earned it yourself?
Is Jesus telling us that: 1) If you think that you just earned your wealth all by yourself, then you might be living foolishly, or 2) If you think that God has given you the wealth that you have, then you are living wisely? We must each answer that from our own heart!