

Get Smart: A Study in Proverbs

Study Notes for Lesson 2: Dollars and Sense:

The Book of proverbs has much to say about money. This is not surprising, because money is a significant reality in our lives. It is important for us to receive God's guidance in this area.

Our Attitude Towards Wealth

It is important first of all to understand that it is possible to be too much consumed with wealth. We must have our priorities straight.

Proverbs 3:9 *Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;*

Proverbs 23:4-5 *Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. 5 Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.*

Proverbs 28:20-22 *A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished. 21 To show partiality is not good— yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread. 22 A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.*

Proverbs 30:7-9 *“Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: 8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. 9 Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.*

Gaining Wealth

God is concerned with not only how we gain wealth, but he also teaches us spiritual principles which affect the loss and gain of wealth.

Proverbs 1:19 *Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it.*

Proverbs 8:18-21 *With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. 19 My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. 20 I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, 21 bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.*

Proverbs 10:22	<i>The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.</i>
Proverbs 13:11	<i>Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.</i>
Proverbs 15:6	<i>The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings them trouble.</i>
Proverbs 19:17	<i>He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.</i>
Proverbs 21:6	<i>A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.</i>
Proverbs 22:9	<i>A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.</i>
Proverbs 22:16	<i>He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty.</i>
Proverbs 28:8	<i>He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.</i>

The Relative Value of Wealth

The Book of Proverbs teaches that wealth certainly is beneficial, but that in comparison to some other things, it is of limited value.

Proverbs 10:15	<i>The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor.</i>
Proverbs 11:4	<i>Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.</i>
Proverbs 11:16	<i>A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth.</i>
Proverbs 11:28	<i>Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.</i>
Proverbs 13:8	<i>A man's riches may ransom his life, but a poor man hears no threat.</i>

- Proverbs 14:20 *The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends.*
- Proverbs 15:16 *Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.*
- Proverbs 17:16 *Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?*
- Proverbs 18:11 *The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it an unscalable wall.*
- Proverbs 19:4 *Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.*
- Proverbs 28:6 *Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse.*