Are You Rich? (Part 1)

Tony Mauck · Luke 18:18–30

INTRODUCTION

- Are you rich? Well, what do you mean exactly by that?
- The story that immediately came to mind that I want to begin with today is the story of the rich young ruler.

1 One Thing You Lack

Luke 18:22; Mark 10:24; Mark 10:30

- Jesus said to him, one thing you lack. sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven.
- His wealth interfered with a complete observance of the commandments.
- Instead, he walks away sorrowfully because he has great possessions.
- Wealth is a great impediment to receiving the kingdom and all of its associated blessings, including treasure in heaven.
- You and I struggle to see ourselves there. We should see ourselves right there.

2 Luke's Emphasis on Wealth

Luke 6:20–24; Luke 12:15; Luke 16:14

- Blessed are the poor, not just the poor in spirit, blessed are the poor.
- Woe to the rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full.
- Jesus isn't opposed to laughing. He isn't opposed to a good meal. But what he's saying is that those things and having them in abundance might be detrimental to faith.
- This life does not consist in the abundance of a thing which a person possesses.
- Now the Pharisees who were lovers of money were listening to all these things, and they were scoffing at him.

3 The United States of America: Are You Rich?

- Are you rich? I want to talk to you about your affluence.
- You realize most Americans are in the upper 1% of the wealthiest people in the world.
- If your average net income exceeds $33,000 to $34,000 annually, you are in the upper 1% of the wealthiest people in the world.
- When we read those passages, I want you to quit thinking about everybody else. I want you to think about you.
- You know how many people in the world would love to have your house. Or even half of it.

4 The Dangers of Wealth

Amos 6:4

- I'll tell you what happens when we're wealthy. The focus becomes me.
- Not only does it cause us to be self-preoccupied, we're going to be less enthused about the spiritual. Because we're so enamored and enthralled with the material.
- This is worship. This is an investment of our minds and directing our thoughts to the throne of God.
- So when we find ourselves lacking interest in spiritual things, we might want to look to the problem of our wealth.
- Woe to those who are at ease in Zion. Who sprawl on beds of ivory.

5 What Are You Going to Do About Your Wealth?

Luke 16:9; Luke 16:11; 1 Timothy 6:17–19

- At the very least, we should be thankful for what we have. We should be good stewards of what we have.
- Good stewardship leads to ultimate wealth in the presence of God.
- Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God.
- Do good, be rich in good works, generous, ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you drawn to him who imparts true wealth? Have you been drawn to his cross for healing?

MY NOTES