

Thoughts about Riches

Proverbs 10 – 13 (selected verses)

Thoughts about Riches Introduction

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- Certain good people in the Bible were rich.
- Abraham, Job and Joseph of Arimathea come to mind.

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- Others were not.
- Consider **Elijah, Elisha** or **John the Baptist**.
- **Jesus and his disciples** lived off the goodwill of others during their ministry.

Thoughts about Riches Introduction

- What is the Bible's view on money?

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- What is the Bible's view on money?
- The Bible is realistic.
- It doesn't give us one simple answer.

Thoughts about Riches Introduction

- What is the Bible's view on money?
- To begin to understand the issues, the **Book of Proverbs** is a great place to start.

Proverbs 10:4-5

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- There is no shame in being poor, but there is in being a slacker.
- There is no virtue in being rich, but there is in being diligent – in working hard and sticking with the job.

Proverbs 10:4-5

- Work brings its own reward.
- It is the usual way that God provides for our needs.

Proverbs 10:15

Proverbs 10:15

- Again, there is no virtue in wealth, no shame in poverty.
- The poor, however, are more vulnerable than the rich to life's adversities.

Proverbs 10:15

- We should balance this verse with **10:2** and **10:16**.
- We shouldn't despise wealth, but we should rate it lower than honesty.

Proverbs 10:22

Proverbs 10:22

- God's blessing for some of us includes financial gain.
- His blessing is also its own form of riches – and will come with contentment as long as our needs are met.

Proverbs 10:22

- Riches without the Lord's blessing can be the source of extreme sorrow.
- Paul warned his student Timothy about the dangers of pursuing riches.

Proverbs 10:22

1 Timothy 6:8–10 (ESV) ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Proverbs 10:22

- Again, the virtue is not in wealth or poverty, but in the priorities we set regarding money.

Proverbs 11:4

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- Pursue righteousness over riches if you have to choose between the two.
- “You can’t take it with you” is a cliché.
- But seriously, you can’t take it with you.

Proverbs 11:4

- Jesus told a parable about a rich fool in [Luke 12:13-21](#).

Proverbs 11:4

- Jesus told a parable about a rich fool in [Luke 12:13-21](#).
- Don't be like the rich fool.
- Let's be sure we are rich toward God.

Proverbs 11:24

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- Generosity does not lead to poverty.
- Stinginess does not lead to wealth.
- It often works out just the opposite.

Proverbs 11:24

- Jesus said,

Luke 6:38 (ESV) Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

Proverbs 11:24

- The prophet Malachi had a harsh message for the nation of Israel about their giving.

Malachi 3:8-12 (ESV) ⁸ Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.

Proverbs 11:24

- The prophet Malachi had a harsh message for the nation of Israel about their giving.

Malachi 3:8-12 (ESV) ¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Proverbs 11:24

- The prophet Malachi had a harsh message for the nation of Israel about their giving.

Malachi 3:8-12 (ESV) ¹¹ I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. ¹² Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

Proverbs 11:24

- We are not legally bound to tithes as the Israelites were.
- Still, a non-legal principle of generous giving applies to us as much as to them.

Proverbs 11:24

- If you feel like you are always short of cash, practicing generosity might help you to break that cycle.

Proverbs 11:28

Proverbs 11:28

- There is nothing wrong with wealth, but righteousness is more reliable in the long run.

Proverbs 13:4

Proverbs 13:4

- Back to the virtue of diligence.
- Diligence is more satisfying than laziness in the end.

Proverbs 13:7

Proverbs 13:7

- Another way to say this is,
- “You can’t judge a book by its cover.”

Proverbs 13:7

- People who are extremely well off don't have to flaunt it.
- Some people look like they are flaunting their wealth, but are not wealthy – they just want you to think they are.

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- People who are extremely well off don't have to flaunt it.
- Some people look like they are flaunting their wealth, but are not wealthy – they just want you to think they are.
- The rich and famous sometimes go bankrupt in obscurity.

Thoughts about Riches Conclusions

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- The Bible says a lot about riches.
- But it refuses to oversimplify.

Thoughts about Riches Conclusions

- What is the Bible's view on money?
- The Bible is realistic.
- It doesn't give us one simple answer.

Thoughts about Riches Conclusions

- Money itself is neither good nor bad.
- It is useful, but can be deceptive.

Thoughts about Riches Conclusions

- Money is about as good as the people who have it.
- Good people with money do good things.
- Bad people with money do not.

Thoughts about Riches

Conclusions

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Thoughts about Riches Conclusions

- Three things God dislikes:
 1. A lopsided love of money.
 2. Laziness, the slacker, or the sluggard.
 3. Stinginess, especially toward him.

Thoughts about Riches

Conclusions

- Three things God enjoys:

Thoughts about Riches Conclusions

- Three things God enjoys:
 1. A balanced view of money.
 2. Diligence and hard work.
 3. Generosity – perhaps because he is generous.