

The *Secrets* of Financial Success

Equipping Leaders for the Purpose of the Church



What is Financial Success??



Is Money Evil?

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

(1 Timothy 6:10)

If not Evil, then what?

[Jesus said:]

"Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Matt 19:24 (NIV)

Who gets Rich?

[Jesus said:]

"⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

Matt 5:44-45 (NIV)

What have we Learned so far?

Dangers... it can:

- ▶ cause you to stray from the faith
- ▶ create envy & jealousy
- ▶ make it hard to get to heaven!?!

But...

- ▶ can wealth be good???
- ▶ what does God say about how we get it?
- ▶ what does God say about how to use it?

Wealthy Bible Figures

Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

Gen 13:2 (NIV)

[Job] had seven sons and three daughters, and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

Job 1:2-3 (NIV)

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named **Joseph**...

Matt 27:57a (NIV)

One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira [near Philippi] named **Lydia**, a dealer in purple cloth.

Acts 16:14a (NIV)

Their Financial Success Secrets!

God First

**Kingdom
Builders**

Generous

**Faithful
& Godly**

Managers

Grateful

God First and Foremost

“For where your treasure is, **there your heart will be also.**”

Matt 6:21 (NIV)


“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money.**”

Matt 6:24 (NIV)

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this,**” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and **pour out so much blessing** that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Mal 6:10 (NIV)

Kingdom Builders



"As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph... ...Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock.

Matt 27:57-60 (NIV)

Faithful & Godly

"After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before"

Job 42:10 (NIV)

"A wicked person earns deceptive wages,
but the one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward."

Prov 11:18 (NIV)

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."

Gal 6:7(NIV)

Generous

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'Truly I tell you,' he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others.'

Luke 21:1-3 (NIV)



Managers



- ▶ Read Matt 25:14-30
- ▶ Talents are all your blessings: Time, Money, People, Resources, Situations, Opportunities...
- ▶ It is a call to stewardship
- ▶ Who owns all of it?

What Secrets have we Learned?

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matt 6:33 (NIV)

- ▶ Seek first the kingdom of God
 - ▶ Tithing and generosity is a *test of the condition of your heart*
 - ▶ *Blessings are promised* by God (Tithing & Blessings - Mal 6:10)
 - ▶ God *will* care for you physically (Sparrows & Flowers - Matt 6:26-33)
- ▶ Focus on building God's eternal kingdom
- ▶ Be a faithful, holy caretaker: God will grow your responsibility (Talents - Matt 25:14-30)

And Live in Eternal Humble Gratitude

Equipping
Leaders



"Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of the
heavenly lights, who does not change like
shifting shadows."

James 1:17 (NIV)