

## The Kingdom Sequence Of Riches

“If we were given all we wanted here, our hearts would settle for this world rather than the next.”

Elisabeth Elliot | missionary, author

Money can only affect our world around us for the gospel if it is put into circulation. The Dead Sea is dead because it only takes in and gives nothing out.

When increase comes our way, we should use it, not only for our needs, but also for the good of others. Treasures on earth can become paths to building heavenly treasures if they are used and distributed for the glory of God. Jesus

“The law of living is giving. If money is to be useful, it must be used.”

understood clearly that, in the consumer culture of this world, we live in a constant battleground for our affections, our heart and our soul.

There is also a cycle to money and its use. Money can be similarly compared to the cycle of water in nature. Did you know that money is only profitable when it is used?

If we are to live life abundantly as Christians, we must follow the scriptural principle of giving. Our measure of giving determines the measure of how we will receive.

Luke 6:38 states, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” (KJV) The more you give, the more He gives back to you. He gives back to the giver. Giving is for your sake, because God gives to givers.

Does the receiver benefit? Yes, in the sense that needs are met. But it is the giver who benefits the most. In II Corinthians 9:6-15, Paul gives clear instructions to the church concerning giving. Verse 7 notes that God will love the giver in a special way. Verse 8 says God will provide for him. Verses 9-11 speak of his resources being multiplied and enriched.

God sees to it that givers are receivers. They obtain money, prosperity, blessing and eternal rewards. And they grow in faith.

## Treasures in Heaven

Giving money is so significant to God because giving money is a way to give of yourself. Matthew 6:19-21 reminds us, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (KJV).

In Bible times, riches often consisted of beautiful clothing and precious metals. Immense value resided in garments passed down from generation to generation. Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colors. Joseph gave

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Benjamin five changes of clothing. Samson promised thirty changes of garments to the one who guessed his riddle. It was very common to place a great deal of importance in clothing. There was a cycle to the flow of wealth.

In the days of the ancient past, people of influence had treasures that consisted of fine clothing, gold, silver, gems, wine, lands, etc. Any of this in abundance was considered of great value and wealth. Today, we are still thrilled with possessions of jewelry, fine cars, boats, clothing, electronic equipment, houses, money and so on. While Jesus said that the poor would always be with us, He also made clear the obligation of the wealthy to the needy. In ancient times, there were many examples of brotherhood. Joseph gave his brothers changes of garments. Achan apparently coveted a beautiful Babylonian garment. Today, there are many food drives to feed the hungry and many clothing drives to provide warm apparel for the needy.

James said to the rich men who had hoarded up clothing and wealth, “Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten” (James 5:2 NKJV). In other words, your unused wealth will get you nowhere. The problem here was unused money. These men had gathered riches for riches sake. James said, “The rust of them (your wealth) shall be a witness against you” (James 5:3 KJV). Rust is a symbol of disuse. It is a sign of inactivity.

Of course, we know that rust can destroy even the best of tools and moths also attack things that we consume. Literally, rust in its destructive path will eat into and destroy nearly everything. Rust will eventually corrode all metal including silver and gold. Figuratively speaking, rust can be anything that would destroy you and your life. In short, all of your treasures, whether physical or otherwise, can be destroyed. The treasures of the kingdom, however, are eternal.

When we concentrate on using our earthly possessions to bring glory to God, then we are storing up treasures in heaven.