



# Way of the Eagle

by Rhoda Collins

## True Wealth

**M**oney is a powerful force.

We work for it, save it, invest it, spend it, use it to satisfy our earthly longings, then wish we had more.

Aware of its distracting danger, Jesus taught about money in how we need to be good stewards and how and what we should spend it on.

In **Matthew 19: 16-24**: Jesus taught about the principles of wealth:

<sup>16</sup>And behold, there came a man up to Him, saying, Teacher, what excellent and perfectly and essentially good deed must I do to possess eternal life? <sup>17</sup>And He said to him, Why do you ask Me about the perfectly and essentially good? There is only One Who is good [perfectly and essentially]-- God. If you would enter into the Life, you must continually keep the commandments. <sup>18</sup>He said to Him, What sort of commandments? [Or, which ones?] And Jesus answered, You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, <sup>19</sup>Honor your father and your mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself. <sup>20</sup>The young man said, I have observed all these from my youth; what still do I lack? <sup>21</sup>Jesus answered him, If you would be perfect [that is, have that spiritual maturity which accompanies self-sacrificing character], go and sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; and come, be My disciple [side with My party and follow Me]. <sup>22</sup>But when the young man heard this, he went away sad (grieved and in much distress), for he had great possessions. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus said to His disciples, Truly I say to you, it will be difficult for a rich man to get into the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>24</sup>Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to go into the kingdom of heaven."

This young man had great possessions - He was very rich.

This man made an idol of his wealth. He loved it more than God. Rather than do good with his treasures, he chose to turn away from the Saviour and keep his earthly wealth rather than do as God asked of him with it. We never hear of this young man again in scripture. He perhaps died surrounded by his earthly wealth, while losing his eternal wealth.

It says this young man went away sorrowful - People undergo great agony of mind while they're suspended between the love of the world and the love of their souls. When the love of the world absolutely predominates, then they enjoy an artificial or deceived rest through a false peace: when the love of the soul has the upper hand, then they possess true tranquillity of mind, through that peace of God that surpasses all understanding (**Philippians 4:7**).

(Read also **Matthew 6:19-21** about storing up treasures in heaven rather than wealth on earth!)

He had great possessions - but what were these in comparison to peace of conscience, and mental rest? Jesus told us what gives us how to received "true wealth", but this man decided it was better to preserve his "false wealth", which brought his soul a false peace. And so will every soul be, who puts worldly goods in the place of the supreme God and His heavenly riches.

Jesus had ultimate spiritual maturity, unmatched stewardship abilities and access to great earthly wealth yet in this position He showed us how He dealt with earthly wealth:

1. He never took offerings Himself!
2. He didn't teach about giving to fill His own pockets (or ours)!
3. He didn't own a house, flocks, land, furniture, jewellery, or any form of transportation!
4. Instead, Jesus warns us that accumulating, trusting in or idolizing earthly wealth, can end up clogging our spiritual arteries and possibly losing entry to the Kingdom of God!

In **Luke 12: 15-21** Jesus says, **“<sup>15</sup>And He said to them, Guard yourselves and keep free from all covetousness (the immoderate desire for wealth, the greedy longing to have more); for a man's life does not consist in and is not derived from possessing overflowing abundance or that which is over and above his needs. <sup>16</sup>Then He told them a parable, saying, The land of a rich man was fertile and yielded plentifully. <sup>17</sup>And he considered and debated within himself, What shall I do? I have no place [in which] to gather together my harvest. <sup>18</sup>And he said, I will do this: I will pull down my storehouses and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain or produce and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many good things laid up, [enough] for many years. Take your ease; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself merrily. <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, You fool! This very night they [the messengers of God] will demand your soul of you; and all the things that you have prepared, whose will they be? <sup>21</sup>So it is with the one who continues to lay up and hoard possessions for himself and is not rich [in his relation] to God [this is how he fares].”**



## **Accumulate True Wealth!**



A person's natural life cannot be prolonged by all the wealth of the world that they possess; worldly wealth cannot prevent diseases or death, nor can spiritual eternal life in heaven be bought or acquired. Jesus teaches us that earthly wealth can be the cause of us being lost forever (**Matthew 19:24**).

What does it mean to be rich with God?

Paul tells us that those who are rich should not be conceited about their wealth, nor to trust in uncertain riches- **1 Timothy 6: 17-19** **“<sup>17</sup>Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. <sup>18</sup>Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, <sup>19</sup>storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”**-rather we are to be rich in good works, to sow seeds in people's lives, such as money seeds, talent seeds, encouragement seeds, teaching seeds, revelation seeds, spending time seeds- ready to give, willing to share.

God measures wealth by such standards as our obedience to Him and our generous disbursement of the wealth that He blesses us with to bless others, as He directs. Our reputation, peace of mind and security should not be tied up in our possessions, our bank accounts and investments, but rather in dependence on God and sowing into His Kingdom with His guidance.

Accumulating true wealth is our destiny!