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HOW MUCH MONEY IS ENOUGH? Answering Life's Toughest Questions

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Part 5 of 7
Eccl. 5:11

"...what is the advantage of wealth?" Eccl. 5:11 (LB)

1. WHAT WE HOPE WEALTH WILL BRING:

- **MORE SATISFACTION**

Your yearning power will always exceed your earning power.

"You will never be satisfied if you long to be rich. You will never get all you want." Eccl. 5:10 (GN)

"It's foolish to think wealth brings happiness." Eccl. 5:10 (LB)

- **MORE SIGNIFICANCE**

If I get wealthy, then people will respect me.

"A man's true life is not made up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he may be." Luke 12:15 (GN)

Your value is not based on your valuables.

- **MORE SECURITY**

If you put your security in something that can be taken away from you, you're not very secure.

"Money can be gone in a flash as if it had grown wings and flown away like an eagle." Prov. 23:5 (GN)

2. WHAT WEALTH REALLY BRINGS

- **MORE EXPENSES**

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As income goes up, so do expenses. It always costs more to have more. If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet the water bill is higher, too.

“The more money you have, the more you spend, right up to the limits of your income.” Eccl. 5:11 (LB)

- **MORE WORRIES**

“A working man ... can get a good night’s sleep. But the rich man has so much that he stays awake worrying.” Eccl. 5:12 (GN)

AS INCOME INCREASES SO DOES INSOMNIA.

- **MORE PAIN IF IT’S LOST**

“... risky investments turn sour, and soon there’s nothing left. It is all swept away. The rest of his life he’s under a cloud – gloomy, discouraged, frustrated, and angry.” Eccl. 5:14,17 (LB)

- **MORE RESPONSIBILITY TO USE IT WISELY**

“If you are untrustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you will the true riches of heaven?” Luke 16:11 (LB)

“A man works hard to keep gaining more riches, and to whom will he leave it all.” Eccl. 4:8

William Vanderbilt: “Inherited wealth is as much a death to initiative as cocaine is to life.”

“We leave the world just as we entered it – with nothing.” Eccl. 5:15 (GN)

3. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO WITH MY MONEY?

FOUR ATTITUDES:

1. BE GRATEFUL

“If God gives a man wealth and property ... he should be grateful and enjoy what he has worked for. It is a gift from God.” Eccl. 5:19 (GN)

“Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” Deut. 8:18

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Thanksgiving for the believer is not a holiday – it is a lifestyle.

2. **BE GLAD.**

“Enjoy prosperity whenever you can and when hard times strike realize that God gives one as well as the other so everyone will realize that nothing is certain in this life.” Eccl. 7:14 (LB)

Happiness isn't getting whatever you want.
Happiness is enjoying whatever you have.

“It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to always be wanting something else.” Eccl. 6:9

3. **BE GENEROUS**

God didn't bless you with what you've got just to spend it on yourself. He's watching to see how much of it you give away.

“Give generously for your gifts will return to you later.” Eccl. 11:1 (LB)

“Tell those who are rich ... not to trust in their money which will soon be gone. Tell them to use their money to do good ... to give happily to those in need; always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity.” I Tim. 6:17-19 (LB)

There is only one antidote to materialism – GIVE!

HOW DO YOU STORE UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN?

- You begin using what you've got now for God's purposes.
- You begin by sharing generously when people have need.

4. **BE GODLY – PUT GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE.**

“You cannot serve two masters ... You cannot serve both God and money.” Luke 16:13

If the Lord is the Lord of my life – He's going to be the Lord of my wallet too.

Ultimately I must be confronted with two key choices:

- Who will be my master?
- Where will I put my money?

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“Save riches for yourself in heaven for your heart will always be where your riches are.” Matt. 6:20-21 (GN)

God doesn't need your money – He wants what it represents – your heart.