

a few lessons for today
there is nothing wrong with being blessed with abundance

there's a lot wrong with thinking it's all just for ourselves

there's a lot wrong with thinking we have final control

3. How we handle wealth is a key indicator of our spiritual maturity

LUKE 16:10-15

Jesus contrasts temporary worldly wealth vs. eternal spiritual wealth
we can only manage the first; we can own the second

if we can't be trusted with the first, why would God give us the other?

based on this indicator, how spiritually mature are you?

thank you for your giving to BRC north & south during tough times

4. Either we master money, or it masters us

do you see yourself as an owner, or a manager, of your resources?
if you're the owner, it will master you

if you're the manager, you can master it

You cannot serve both God and money

the current economic crisis gives a unique chance to get it right

5. God has a very different value system than we do

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard this and were sneering at Jesus
much of our American society does the same, esteeming the rich

What people value highly is detestable in God's sight

he looks at us like spoiled children who won't share our toys

You justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts

A CONCLUDING STORY

WHAT JESUS BELIEVES ABOUT WEALTH

INTRODUCTION

The Bible's credibility on money issues seems to have risen considerably

The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil - executive bonuses?

1 Timothy 6:10

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy (Mt. 6:19)--markets plunge & institutions crumble?

The Bible--and Jesus--give a lot of solid advice on handling wealth

Five Things Jesus Believes About Wealth

1. Wealthy people have great value (as do poor people!)

while Jesus challenged attitudes, he loved the people holding them

example of the very wealthy man who came to Jesus (Mk 10:17-27)

Jesus depended on others to support his ministry

The women were helping to support them out of their own means

Luke 8:1-3

wealth doesn't have to be barrier or bonus from God's perspective

2. Wealth makes a very poor foundation on which to build a life

study the long-term lives of pro athletes, movie stars, lottery winners

LUKE 12:13-21

brothers arguing over inheritance issues try to involve Jesus

Watch out! Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions

Jesus tells this story to drive home his point

the abundant harvest is a blessing from God

farmer's response is to solidify the foundation for his future

You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy!

how many people are finding this thinking false today?

the fallacy is thinking we are in control of our own destiny

But God said to him "You fool!"