

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: A Man and His Money

SERMON REFERENCE: James 1:9-12

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #0529

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) James 1:9-12
- b) We all encounter many trials and temptations that come to prove and to test us.
- c) One of the biggest tests of our character is in our relationship to money and material things.
 - i) Our attitude toward money is not only seen in our action toward money but also in our reaction to money.
- d) There are many deceptions and misconceptions about money:
 - i) Some people believe that money will make them happy.
 - (1) Money cannot buy happiness.
 - ii) Money can buy marriage, but it cannot buy love.
 - iii) Money can buy four years of college, but it cannot buy an education.
 - iv) Money can hire a doctor, but it cannot make you well.
 - v) Money can take you almost anywhere except to Heaven.
 - vi) Some people believe that money can bring security.
 - (1) There is no security in money.
 - (a) The Bible speaks of the deceitfulness of riches and that they can be wiped out so easily.
 - vii) Some people think that money is evil.
 - (1) The Bible does not say that money is evil.
 - (a) The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.
 - (i) 1 Timothy 6:10
 - e) We need to find a proper attitude toward money.
 - i) It is attitude, not circumstances, that determines a family's general financial stability.
 - (1) The family that cannot manage on little cannot manage on much.
 - f) In this first chapter of the book of James, three key things are mentioned in reference to our relationship with money:
 - i) Exaltation
 - (1) James 1:9
 - ii) Humiliation
 - (1) James 1:10
 - iii) Coronation
 - (1) James 1:12

2) THE EXALTATION OF THE POOR MAN (JAMES 1:9)

- a) In order to pass the test of life, many people may have to pass the test of poverty.
 - i) If we are tried by poverty, then we need to see poverty in the proper perspective:
 - (1) If we are in the Lord Jesus Christ, then we are highly exalted, no matter how poor we may be.
 - (2) As Christians, we are rich.

- (a) Romans 8:16-17
 - (i) As Christians, we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus.
 - (b) 2 Corinthians 8:9
 - (c) 1 Corinthians 1:5
 - b) 2 Samuel gives us one of the best illustrations of the riches of the redeemed.
 - i) Just as King David showed kindness to Mephibosheth for Jonathan's sake, God has shown us kindness for Jesus' sake.
 - ii) 2 Samuel 9:7, 10, 11, 13
 - (1) Repeatedly, the Holy Spirit mentions Mephibosheth eating at the king's table.
 - (a) As Christians, we're invited to eat at the King's table.
 - (i) Revelation 3:20
 - (2) No matter what may be set before us on our table today, there is Someone else who prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies, and He is the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Psalm 23:5
 - c) We have the King's fellowship.
 - i) We enjoy fellowship sitting at the King's table.
 - (1) Sharing a meal is the most intimate of fellowship.
 - (2) Mephibosheth sits continually at the King's table.
 - ii) Regardless of the amount of money we may have, we need to remember that we have the King's fellowship.
 - d) We have the King's fortune.
 - i) 2 Samuel 9:9-10
 - (1) King David restored to Mephibosheth his inheritance; he made Mephibosheth an heir to the king.
 - (2) Spiritually, the King restores to us our inheritance.
 - ii) We are given servants.
 - (1) The angels, or ministering spirits, wait upon us.
 - (2) As Christians, we each have an angel to wait upon us, to serve us and to take care of us.
 - e) We are part of the King's family.
 - i) 2 Samuel 9:11
 - (1) Mephibosheth was treated as one of the king's sons, not as a guest.
 - ii) As Christians, we are part of royalty.
 - f) In Christ, we are rich.
- 3) THE HUMILIATION OF THE PROSPEROUS MAN (JAMES 1:10)
- a) It is harder to pass the test of plenty or prosperity than it is to pass the test of poverty.
 - i) The poor man is to rejoice because, in Jesus, he has gone from rags to riches.
 - ii) The rich man is to rejoice because he is made low.

- b) In spite of riches, Christians should rejoice in the fact that they have found the Lord Jesus.
- c) The Lord does not tell the rich man to renounce his riches but to properly assess his riches.
 - i) It is not wrong to have money.
 - ii) Some of God's choicest saints were extremely wealthy.
 - (1) Abraham and Joseph, among others, suffered adversity at times but were extremely rich.
 - (2) Deuteronomy 8:18
 - iii) Just as the poor man knows that he has gone from rags to riches in Christ, the rich man knows that in Christ, he has gone from seeming riches to reality.
- d) Many people can live better being poor than they can by being rich.
- e) Proverbs 30:7-9
 - i) Many people have all the riches that God can trust them with.
- f) The rich man is sometimes prone to trust in his riches, to be proud, and then he turns from the Lord.
- g) In this passage in the book of James, James tells the rich man to rejoice for three reasons:
 - i) He has a new position.
 - (1) The rich man has been made low.
 - (a) It is good to be made low.
 - (b) Jesus said that the way up is down.
 - (i) Luke 14:11
 - (2) It is hard for a rich man to humble himself.
 - (a) Mark 10:23-25
 - (i) The "eye of a needle" references small, low gates in the walls around Jerusalem and other cities in ancient times that made it extremely difficult for horses and camels to get through, in order to keep people from riding horseback through the city streets at nighttime.
 - (ii) Like the camel, a rich man has to get down low and get the burden off his back.
 - (3) When the rich man sees himself as he truly is, that his riches do not give security and that he needs the Lord, then he can rejoice that he has a new position.
 - ii) He has a new perspective.
 - (1) James 1:10-11
 - (a) The rich man has now learned that his riches are transitory and fleeting.
 - (b) We cannot take our riches with us.
 - (2) The rich man who is a Christian can rejoice that God has shown him his new position and new perspective; he understands that riches are very transitory.

- (3) To know how rich you are, add up everything you have that money cannot buy and that death cannot take away.
 - iii) He has a new prosperity.
 - (1) He, too, is very rich, not because of the money in the bank but because of Christ in his heart.
 - (2) He discovers, like the poor man, that he is a spiritual millionaire in Christ.
 - (3) Proverbs 22:2
 - (a) The ground at the cross is level.
 - (b) Whether you are a millionaire or a pauper, in Jesus we are all one.
 - (i) We are all fabulously wealthy in the Lord Jesus.
- 4) THE CORONATION OF THE PURIFIED MAN (JAMES 1:12)
- a) Receiving a crown is a coronation.
 - i) The one who is purified is the one who will have this coronation.
 - ii) Job 23:10
 - (1) Trials in this passage are to purify us and make us stand.
 - b) When we pass the test of money, whether it's poverty or plenty, we will wear a crown.
 - i) There are those who will fail the test.
 - (1) Some who are wealthy will encounter adversity and lose their riches and will become discouraged and drop out of church.
 - (2) Others who currently do not have material wealth will become wealthy and will forget God.
 - ii) Others will pass the test when they are tried and will endure temptation because they will prove what is really inside of them.
 - c) There are three things to note about the coronation:
 - i) The requirement
 - (1) James 1:12
 - (2) The one who endures temptation is the one who sticks it out.
 - (3) Romans 5:3
 - (a) The word "patience" means "the ability to endure."
 - (4) The requirement is that we be steadfast.
 - (a) Do not be like the double-minded man who is unstable in all his ways; determine now that when the test comes, you will stand firm and stick it out.
 - ii) The reward
 - (1) James 1:12
 - (a) The word for "crown" in this passage is not the crown that a king would wear but is the laurel, or crown, that a runner or athlete would receive.
 - (2) Many work for a corruptible crown, but we as Christians have an incorruptible crown.

- (3) The crown spoken of in this passage does not refer to salvation, the free gift of God that we have when we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord; but is referring to the laurel that is put on the runner's head when he has been faithful.
 - iii) The resource
 - (1) James 1:12
 - (2) The resource for living a life not controlled by materialistic concepts is to love the Lord.
 - (3) The reason many people love the world more than they should is because they don't love the Lord as they should.
 - (a) 1 John 2:15
 - (b) Love for this world is a warning signal that somehow the love of God is not in us.
 - (4) When we love the Lord, then we don't have to be tied to this world.
 - (5) When we have the love of the Lord in our hearts, then we will know the victory that only Jesus can give.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) We might be surprised to know how many tests come our way each and every day.
 - i) The tests may be small.
 - (1) Not all tests are large.
 - b) Some will receive the test of poverty while others will receive the test of prosperity.
 - c) The important thing is that we remain faithful to God and pass the tests and be able to wear a crown when the battles are over.
 - d) Do you have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - i) If not, you can pray to Him now and ask Him to come into your life.
 - e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16