Series: Ancient Wisdom

**Proverbs for Your Finances**

Proverbs 3:9-10, October 15, 2017

1. Getting ahead financially still requires self-control & hard work.

1. Even rich people end up poor without self-control.
* Proverbs 21:17 *Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.*
1. “Get rich quick” is a quick road to poverty.
* Proverbs 13:11 *Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.*
* Proverbs 12:11 *Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.*
* Proverbs 22:7 *The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.*
1. Discipline and hard work promise a return.
* Proverbs 10:4-5 *4 A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. 5 He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.*
* Proverbs 24:27 *Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.*

Q. Proverbs warns against the love of wine and oil. Where are you most tempted toward indulgence?

Q. Today, the self-control required to gather “little by little” has been eroded by easy credit. How can your faith help you to avoid the “slavery” that borrowing creates?

Q. In what areas do you need to grow in professional or financial diligence?

2. The blessing of money is multiplied through generosity.

1. “Me first” robs money of its blessing.
* Proverbs 11:24-26 *24 One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. 25 Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. 26 The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.*
1. Generosity multiplies money’s blessings.
* Proverbs 14:21 *Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.*

Q. Proverbs 11:24-26 seems to be saying the opposite of what people typically believe. In what sense does a generous person “grow all the richer?”

Q. What does being “generous to the poor” look like in our culture? i.e. What are the most important ways that we should give to the poor today?

3. How you prioritize your finances, shows who you really trust.

1. Wealth is a dangerous thing to put your faith in.
* Proverbs 11:28 *Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.*
* Proverbs 18:10-11 *10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. 11 A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination.*
* Proverbs 30:7-9 *7 Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: 8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, 9 lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.*
1. We express our faith in God by giving Him the first of our increase.
* Proverbs 3:9-10 *9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.*
1. Jesus shows us how to relate to money.
* 2 Corinthians 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

Q. What does it mean to trust in riches? Why is this so dangerous?

Q. Why does Agur pray for “neither poverty nor riches” in Proverbs 30? What are the dangers of these extremes today?

Q. How do we “honor the LORD” with our wealth and firstfruits today? Why is this connected with blessing?

Q. Why did Jesus choose a life of poverty?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Proverbs 12:18.

**Notes:**