

Proverbs Week 8

Money

Reflection and Discussion Questions

1. *What is your first memory of money? If you had to describe it to an alien from another world what would you say?*
2. *Where does money come from? Where does everything come from? Who do we look to for our cues about what to do with our money?*
3. *Is it better to be poor or rich? Read Proverbs 28:6, and 30: 7-9. Does these passages shift your answer?*
4. *What notions or principles have guided your decisions on how you gain and use your resources? How, if at all, have those changed over time?*
5. *What is the good of wealth? When does it become something other than good, and how do you know when it does?*
6. *What are all the things you can remember Jesus saying about those with wealth? What might we infer by the variety of responses about how we're to enjoy and deploy wealth wisely?*
7. *What if anything inhibits your generosity--what fears or otherwise? If guilt isn't supposed to be the motivation for generosity, what is? How is that cultivated?*
8. Read Proverbs 11:4. How does this verse inform your views of money?
9. Who has ultimately sacrificed to deliver us from wrath? Some of us struggle to save, some of us struggle to spend, others to share...probably all of us to trust. Whose righteousness do we rest in as we wrestle to know what to do with money?

10. Take a deep breath, rest in the deep reality that our wealth (or lack) is not what we trust. We have all we need. We can share and give away generously- for we have a dad who gives us all things. Spend some time thanking Him specifically for the jobs he has given you over the years to make money and the actual money that has come from them.

Prov. 28:6, 11, 20

6 Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.

11 A rich man is wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has understanding will find him out.

20 A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 30:7-9

Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, 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.

Various Others

3:9 Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;

11:4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

14:21 Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.