

Orthodox Christian

PERSPECTIVE ON

WEALTH & POVERTY

Saint Mary's Ottawa

November 10, 2017

Some Commonly Asked Questions

- What is wealth?
- Is it bad to be rich?
- Do any rich make it to heaven?
- Do all the poor make it to heaven?
- What if I am poor, do I still have to give?
- Is it bad to want to be rich?
- Do I have to pay tithes?

Different kinds of Wealth

Earthly Treasure

- Is **physical**, can perish, corrupt, be lost or stolen
- Temporal (**temporary**), **limited**
- Cannot take with you
- Can be “traded in” to gain Heavenly Treasure

Heavenly Treasure

- Is **spiritual**, incorruptible
- **Eternal** (ever-lasting)
- Is **boundless** and waiting for you to **enjoy** forever ...

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1Cor 2:9)

You can't take it with you



Treasures
(Matthew 6:19-20)

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust destroy and
where thieves break in and steal;*

*but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust destroys and
where thieves do not break in and steal.*

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

Give Generously

- Giving generously when you have an abundance (should be) easy
- Giving generously when you have little is more difficult
- The poor are often more generous than the rich! Why?
- Many poor depend on God; many rich depend on their wealth.
- Those who give are blessed ... particularly who give while in need
- We too can give: **time, money, care, forgiveness, love, help, service**
- Give your time ... even when you have little ... God will bless your time

*Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said:
'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* (Acts 20:35)



God loves a cheerful giver.

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

The Widow's Two Mites

(Luke 21)

*And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain **poor** widow putting in **two mites**.*

*So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of **her poverty** put in **all the livelihood that she had**."*

Give Cheerfully

- Giving cheerfully when you have an abundance should be easy
- Giving when you have little is more difficult but can still be done
- We all can give: **time, money, care, forgiveness, love, help, service, smile**
- Give abundantly, cheerfully, generously, expecting nothing in return.
- Expect nothing in return, but God will **definitely bless you abundantly!**

*“Give, and it will be given to you:
good measure, pressed down, shaken together,
and running over will be put into your bosom.
For with the same measure that you use,
it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)*

Danger: dependence on wealth

- Many poor depend on God; many rich depend on their wealth.
- If you depend on God, you worship God, He is your Master
- If you overly-depend on wealth, it can easily be your Master
- The rich who cannot share their wealth are enslaved by their wealth
- You cannot take it (your earthly wealth with you);
- But it (earthly wealth) could drag you down with it ... if you let it.

‘You cannot serve God and mammon.’ (Matthew 6:24)

The Rich Fool



The Rich Fool

(Luke 12:16-21)

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."'"

But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."



The Rich
Young Ruler

The Rich Young Ruler

(Mark 10)

17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

18 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 19 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’”

20 And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.”

*21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, **sell** whatever you have and **give** to the poor, and you will have **treasure in heaven**; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”*

*22 **But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.***

The Rich Young Ruler

- Wealthy
- Young & Healthy
- Powerful & Influential
- But too attached to (earthly) riches
- Unwilling to let give & share wealth
- Unable to heed the Lord's loving advice
- Incorrect perspective (focus on temporary wealth)

Those who trust in Riches

(Mark 10)

*23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!” 24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, “Children, how hard it is for those **who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!** 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”*

26 And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, “Who then can be saved?”

27 But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.”



The Rich Man and Lazarus

The Rich Man and Lazarus

(Luke 16)

¹⁹ “There was a certain **rich** man who was **clothed** in purple and **fine** linen and fared **sumptuously** every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain **beggar** named Lazarus, full of **sores**, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ **desiring** to be fed with the **crumbs** which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the **dogs** came and **licked** his **sores**. ²² So it was that the beggar died, and was **carried by the angels** to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in **torments in Hades**, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.



Lazarus
Eternally
Comforted

The
Rich Man
Tormented

The Rich Man and Lazarus

(Luke 16)

²⁴ “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

The Beatitudes

(Luke 6:20-22)

Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said:

*“**Blessed** are you **poor**,
For yours is the kingdom of God.*

***Blessed** are you who **hunger** now,
For you shall be filled.*

***Blessed** are you who **weep** now,
For you shall laugh.*

Is it good to be successful?

HOW did you become successful?

- Through Godly means (studying/working **faithfully**) is **good**
- Through ungodly means (cheating, fraud, lying, stealing) is **bad**

WHAT do you do with your success?

- Use it for the **glory of God** is **good**
- Use it to **help** (feed, comfort) the **Lord's brethren** is **good**
- Let it control/enslave you is **not good**
- Let it get to your head is **not good**
- Use it for own glory is **not good**

Godly Success

(3John)

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Rich (ungodly) Oppressors will be Judged (James 5)

*Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by **fraud**, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. You have **condemned**, you have **murdered** the just; he does not resist you.*

Spiritually
RICH



Spiritual



POOR
Spiritually

Eternal Life

POOR Physically
and
RICH Spiritually

RICH Physically
and
RICH Spiritually

Eternal Death

POOR Physically
and
POOR Spiritually

RICH Physically
and
POOR Spiritually

POOR Physically

← Physical Life on Earth →

Physically RICH

The LORD emptied Himself

- Humbly born in a **manger** amidst animals
- Family forced to **flee** to Egypt escaping from King Herod
- Jesus lived in **submission** to St. Mary & St. Joseph
- **Laboured** as a poor Carpenter with St. Joseph
- **No room** to lay down his head to rest
- Choose **poor fishermen** as His disciples
- Accepted to be quietly **despised, humiliated, persecuted**
- Died the most **horrific death** on the **Cross** for my sake
- **Rose from the dead, Ascended to Heaven, Reigns Forever**

**Spiritually
RICH**



Spiritual

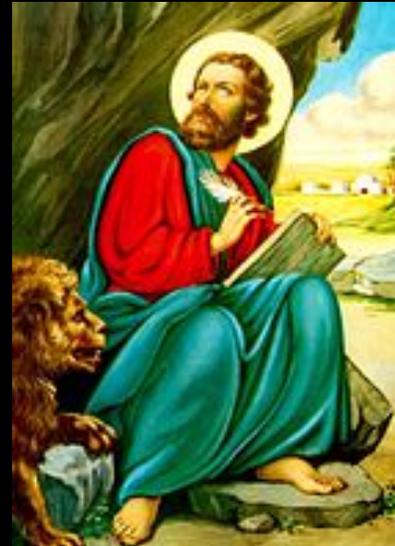
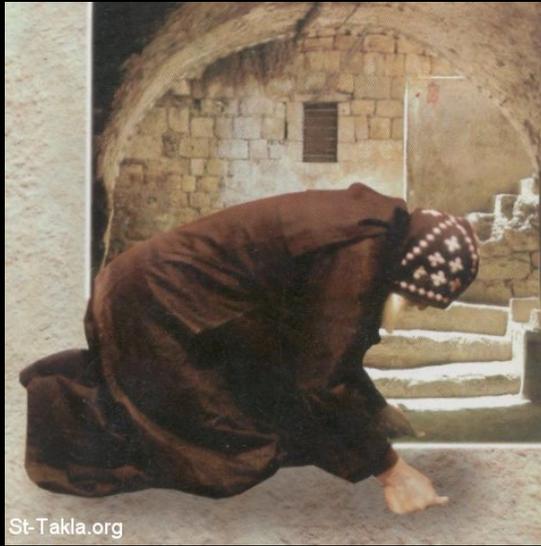
**POOR
Spiritually**

POOR Physically

Physical Life on Earth

Physically RICH

Spiritually
RICH



Spiritual



POOR
Spiritually



POOR Physically

Physical Life on Earth

Physically RICH

Spiritually
RICH

Spiritual

You can't take it with you ...
Don't let it take you (**down**) with it!

POOR
Spiritually



POOR Physically

Physical Life on Earth

Physically RICH

Be Careful if you think you are spiritually rich
(Revelation 3:17)

*Because you say,
'I am rich, have become wealthy, and
have need of nothing' — and do not
know that you are wretched, miserable,
poor, blind, and naked*

The Beatitudes

(Matthew 5:3)

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Poor in spirit means those
who realize that they are poor in spirit,
for we are truly all poor in spirit and
in need of the Lord's grace at all times!*