

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

## Sunday Morning

Study 23

*True Wealth*

# True Wealth

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word

**Objective** To show the students that the only thing of true value in the world is a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

## Key Verses

Proverbs 19—Main Teaching Passage

Ecclesiastes 2:9-11

Ecclesiastes 12:13

2 Corinthians 6:10

## Memory Verse - Ecclesiastes 12:13

“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

## Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, Proverbs 10:19.

Take the fake “Calvary Dollars” on the cart and hand them out to the class. Give lots of money to some of the students and only a couple of dollars to others.

Tell the class that you are only going to answer questions from the students who have the most money. Tell them that you don’t really have time for the students that have the least amount of money.

Is this fair? Does God only listen to people who have lots of money? Does the amount of money that you have change the way that God feels about you?

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

Proverbs 19 speaks repeatedly about the realities and consequences of wealthy and poverty. It shows us quite bluntly that our notions of equating wealth and happiness are misplaced, as are our desires or strivings for wealth and material gain.

The passage begins by making a statement about where true wealth is found, “Better is a poor person who walks in integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.” Scripture clearly values righteousness and holiness over financial wealth. Ecclesiastes 2:9-11 echo this sentiment, that obtaining vast wealth and riches is “vanity” and rather that the chief end of man is to “fear God and keep His commandments. This is the whole duty of man” (Ecc 12:13).

We see in Proverbs 19 that wealth brings false friends (v. 4, 6) who are there when life is prosperous and disappear when times get tough (v. 7). Most importantly, we see that wealth is not a sign of God’s blessing on someone’s life, nor is poverty a sign of God’s anger. Verse 22 tells us that in the Lord’s eyes, “a poor man is better than a liar,” and that what the Lord seeks to see in a person is steadfast love.

Paul the apostle would say that even though he had nothing in the physical, he possessed everything in the spiritual, that though he was bankrupt, he made many men rich, not because he gave away money, but because he gave something so much more valuable, the Gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 6:10).

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

# LOOK

During the last Super bowl, companies spent 5 million dollars for a thirty second advertising spot. That does not include the money spent on actors, animations, design, etc. The commercials are designed to sell you a product. They tell us that happiness can be found if we have the car, phone, or food that their company is offering. We live in a society that tells us that if we have lots and lots of money, then we will be able to buy lots of things that will make us feel good. If we have money, we will have everything that we need.

The Bible tells us a different story. The Bible tells us that money is neither a good thing nor a bad thing, but it also tells us that striving after money, and making financial wealth the most important thing in our life is foolish.

# LOOK (Continued)

When God looks at the people of the world who is He most pleased with? Is God more pleased with Bill Gates (the richest man in the world) than with a homeless person living on the streets of Philadelphia, just because Bill Gates has lots of money and the homeless person have very little? Not at all. The Bible tells us that God does not look at the outward appearance but instead looks at our hearts (1 Samuel 16:7). Proverbs tells us that it is better to be poor and upright than wealthy and corrupt. The Lord desires to see each of us living in righteousness and obedience no matter what our house looks like or whether we drive a 20-year-old Toyota Corolla or a Porsche 911.

Money, expensive stuff, nice clothes; those things are all fine, but they don't last. There is only one thing of true and real value, the gift of everlasting life in Christ Jesus. Mark 8:36 says, "For what good shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

It is important to work hard to be able to provide and support those that you love. Earning one's keep and paying ones way is also promoted as wisdom in the Scriptures, but when money becomes an idol in your life, when it becomes more important to you than anything else (the Lord included), then we are told that it is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Rather than striving after wealth, God would have us strive after holiness. Seeking to live in a way that pleases God is a truly valuable and worthwhile endeavor.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

# TOOK

As a class, memorize Ecclesiastes 12:13.

**Discuss:** Pose these two questions to the class: If you are very wealthy, does it mean that God loves you? If you are very poor, does it mean that God is angry with you?

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for His continuous provision in our lives. Ask Him to help us to seek Him and His Kingdom above any and all other things. Praise Him for His patience and faithfulness in our lives.

**Parent Question:** As a family read Ecclesiastes 12:13 (our memory verse). What does it mean to "Fear God and keep His commands"?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Proverbs 19 (selected verses) by Matthew Henry

Pro 19:1

Here see,

1. What will be the credit and comfort of a poor man, and make him more excellent than his neighbour, though his poverty may expose him to contempt and may dispirit him. Let him be honest and walk in integrity, let him keep a good conscience and make it appear that he does so, let him always speak and act with sincerity when he is under the greatest temptations to dissemble and break his word, and then let him value himself upon that, for all wise and good men will value him. He is better, has a better character, is in a better condition, is better beloved, and lives to better purpose, than many a one that looks great and makes a figure.
2. What will be the shame of a rich man, notwithstanding all his pomp. If he have a shallow head and an evil tongue, if he is perverse in his lips and is a fool, if he is a wicked man and gets what he has by fraud and oppression, he is a fool, and an honest poor man is to be preferred far before him.

Pro 19:4

Here,

1. We may see how strong men's love of money is, that they will love any man, how undeserving soever he be otherwise, if he has but a deal of money and is free with it, so that they may hope to be the better for it. Wealth enables a man to send many presents, make many entertainments, and do many good offices, and so gains him many friends, who pretend to love him, for they flatter him and make their court to him, but really love what he has, or rather love themselves, hoping to get by him.
2. We may see how weak men's love of one another is. He who, while he prospered, was beloved and respected, if he fall into poverty is separated from his neighbour, is not owned nor looked upon, not visited nor regarded, is bidden to keep his distance and told he is troublesome. Even one that has been his neighbour and acquaintance will turn his face from him and pass by on the other side. Because men's consciences tell them they ought to relieve and succour such, they are willing to have this excuse, that they did not see them.

Pro 19:6-7

These two verses are a comment upon v. 4, and show,

1. How those that are rich and great are courted and caressed, and have suitors and servants in abundance. The prince that has power in his hand, and preferments at his disposal, has his gate and his ante-chamber thronged with petitioners, that are ready to adore him for what they can get. Many will entreat his favour, and think themselves happy in it. Even great men are humble suppliants to the prince. How earnest then should we be for the favour of God, which is far beyond that of any earthly prince. But, it should seem, liberality will go further than majesty itself to gain respect, for there are many that court the prince, but every man is a friend to him that gives gifts; not only those that have received, or do expect, gifts from him, will, as friends, be ready to serve him, but others also will, as friends, give him their good word. Prodigals, who are foolishly free of what they have, will have many hangers-on who will cry them up as long as it lasts, but will leave them when it is done. Those that are prudently generous make an interest by it which may stand them in good stead; those that are accounted benefactors exercise an authority which may give them an opportunity of doing good, Lu. 22:25.

2. How those that are poor and low are slighted and despised. Men may, if they please, court the prince, and the princely, but they may not trample upon the poor and look at them with disdain. Yet so it often is: All the brethren of the poor do hate him; even his own relations are shy of him, because he is needy and craving, and expects something from them, and because they look upon him as a blemish to their family; and then no marvel if others of his friends, that were nothing akin to him, go far from him, to get out of his way. He pursues them with words, hoping to prevail with them by his importunity to be kind to him, but all in vain; they have nothing for him. They pursue him with words (so some understand it), to excuse themselves from giving him any thing; they tell him that he is idle and impertinent, that he has brought himself into poverty, and therefore ought not to be relieved; as Nabal said to David's messengers: "There are many servants now a days that run away from their masters; and how do I know but that David may be one of them?" Let poor people therefore make God their friend, pursue him with their prayers, and he will not be wanting to them.

Pro 19:22

Note,

1. The honour of doing good is what we may laudably be ambitious of. It cannot but be the desire of man, if he have any spark of virtue in him, to be kind; one would not covet an estate for any thing so much as thereby to be put into a capacity of relieving the poor and obliging our friends.

2. It is far better to have a heart to do good and want ability for it than have ability for it and want a heart to it: The desire of a man to be kind, and charitable, and generous, is his kindness, and shall be so construed; both God and man will accept his good-will, according to what he has, and will not expect more. A poor man, who wishes you well, but can promise you nothing, because he has nothing to be kind with, is better than a liar, than a rich man who makes you believe he will do mighty things, but, when it comes to the setting to, will do nothing. the character of the men of low degree, that they are vanity, from whom nothing is expected, is better than that of men of high degree, that they are a lie, they deceive those whose expectations they raised.

# FURTHER STUDY

## Additional Verses

Compare and Contrast – Poor vs Rich

Proverbs 10:4

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Proverbs 10:15

The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty.

Proverbs 13:7

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

Proverbs 13:8

The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke.

Proverbs 14:20

The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.

Proverbs 18:23

The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

Proverbs 19:1

Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

Proverbs 19:4

Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

Proverbs 19:7

All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

Proverbs 19:22

The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar.

Proverbs 21:17

He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

Proverbs 22:2

The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.

Proverbs 22:7

The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Proverbs 28:6

Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

Proverbs 28:11

The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.

Proverbs 29:13

The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes.

Proverbs 30:7-9

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

Luke 6:20-26

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

“Blessed are you poor,

For yours is the kingdom of God.

21 Blessed are you who hunger now,

For you shall be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now,

For you shall laugh.

22 Blessed are you when men hate you,

And when they exclude you,

And revile you, and cast out your name as evil,

For the Son of Man’s sake.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy!

For indeed your reward is great in heaven,

For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

24 “But woe to you who are rich,

For you have received your consolation.

25 Woe to you who are full,

For you shall hunger.

Woe to you who laugh now,

For you shall mourn and weep.

26 Woe to you when all men speak well of you,

For so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Philippians 4:11-13

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.