

## Bible Study – Contending for wealth

### Objective

In today's bible study we will look to gain a biblical understanding of the need to contend for wealth as believers.

### Introduction

**Proverbs 22:7 NKJV “The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower is servant to the lender.”**

The agenda of God is the establishment of the kingdom of God in the earth. The plan of God is to turn the kingdoms of this World into the kingdoms of our God. Kingdom establishment is about rulership in this earth space. This is because the one who rules determines the state of the domain they rule over. That is why contrary to what most people think, this rulership is not just for the future, it is the will of God that this rulership starts here on earth. God is interested in things being here on earth as it is in heaven.

### **Romans 5:17**

**For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)**

When you look up that word LIFE, it is the Greek word **Zoe**, it speaks of *Life, both of physical (present) and of spiritual (particularly future) existence.*

God made His grace available, so that anyone who accepts His Grace, anyone who receives the ABUNDANCE of HIS GRACE and the gift of righteousness will rule in this physical, present life and in the future life as well!

But in this earth realm, the rich that rule over the poor! Something has happened in the church where the enemy has made the idea of Christians and wealth a dirty combination. Some preachers and their gimmicks have been employed by what I call the ministry of devil affairs to help propagate this agenda to keep the church away from wealth.

However, the truth is that if our life's work is about the establishment of the kingdom of God, if our life's work is about ruling and reigning in this life, we need to pay attention to what's happening with our finances, because the rich rule over the poor!

In **1 Samuel 13:16-23**, we find the children of Israel in a place called Gibeah...which means a hill, an elevated place. They were under siege and outnumbered by the philistines who were in a place michmash which means hidden. But what the enemy did was to make sure there were no blacksmiths in the land that was elevated. They did this so that the people of God, thought they were elevated, will not have any weapons to fight in the time of war.

The devil is happy for you to be tongue talking, devil stomping, demon casting, he doesn't mind you being on a hill, as long as you do not have what it takes to beat him when it really counts. Wealth is a tool for accomplishing the will of God. The strategy of the enemy is to keep you without wealth, or worst still to come to him when you need money, just like the children of Israel needed to do when they needed to sharpen their weapons. Because the rich rule over the poor!

Real wealth is not about flashy cars or big houses or red bottom shoes (even though God has nothing against those), real wealth is about the establishment of the kingdom!! This is about rulership. So, let's put aside our preconceived ideas. Let's not allow the world to shame us out of talking about this. Let's find out what God says about this!

## WHO IS YOUR MASTER?

In **Matthew 6:24** Jesus says something phenomenal, I'll read it from the message bible...

**“You can’t worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you’ll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can’t worship God and Money both.”**

**Matthew 6:24 MSG**

It's Jesus speaking here, He names two masters, God and money! He is saying on this earth, money can be your master just as God can. That is a profound statement.

You and I will need to consciously decide who your master will be...and don't religiously say I choose God, when you are borrowing money to buy your trainers...because the borrower is servant to the lender! **Your credit score betrays your confession that God is your master!**

So, reading that scripture and saying Jesus is your master is not enough...your credit score needs to be confirming your confession! We don't just owe it to ourselves, we owe it to our lord and master Jesus to be free from serving money! **Wealth is really the measure of how much money is serving you.**

## You are not a bird, you are a child of God

Look at **verse 25**- still reading from the message translation.

**“If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don’t fuss about what’s on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer**

appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds."

Matthew 6:25-26 MSG

There is more than one way to not worry about what you will eat or what you will wear...

1- You can learn to be like the birds who do not gather, who do not have a savings account or a business, but God takes care of them. That's great, because the truth is that it is God who is your source! So even in the season where you have nothing to your name, God supplies! He is Jehovah Jireh! This is the option most Christians opt for. But I present another option...

2- What if we learn from the birds like Jesus suggested...but actually also realise that we are not birds! We learn from the birds by recognising that we are of more value than the birds, so we should never worry about the food or clothing because we have a father. However, we also need to understand that unlike the birds, God is using us to establish His kingdom! That requires not being materialistic, but also requires wealth! It requires not being a servant to money, but it requires money to serve us.

Not worrying and not gathering serves you well. However not worrying and gathering serves you and the kingdom. The two are not mutually exclusive. The kingdom of God is not primarily about your personal wholeness. The kingdom of God will bring about your personal wholeness, but it is about your rulership. Jesus made you a king because your dominion is essential for kingdom advancement. The enemy doesn't mind you being saved as long as your salvation does not invade his kingdom! Your being poor does not serve the kingdom, it serves the god of this world.

Harriet Tubman, an American freedom fighter once said, I freed thousands of slaves, I could have freed many thousands more if only they realised, they were slaves. **Many times, we are not seeking freedom, because we didn't even realise that we were bound.** I think that many of us might find this bible study unnecessary or even offensive because you don't know that the absence of wealth has tied your hands and restricted your ability to materialise the dreams God sowed in your heart. It is possible to be heaven bound, tongue talking, revelation carrier, but still be bound to money!

And my job today is to get you to examine your life, be honest with yourself, reposition yourself and reach for heaven's agenda. Don't go into a sulk or offence, don't allow the enemy to bring you to a place of condemnation, because that's what he tries to do. This conversation is about the establishment of the kingdom...it's not about your reputation. So, what we ought to do is our best. Start to ask the Lord for direction on how to realign yourself to the kingdom agenda in this area of wealth.

### Freedom by Faith in God

In Daniel 3, we see the famous story of King Nebuchadnezzar who is really a type of the everything that the world system is about. And we also have Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego who are a type of you and me, who are in this world but not of this world.

King Nebuchadnezzar erects a statue of Gold...and says when the signal is given, everyone needs to stop what they are doing and bow to the statue of Gold! That's exactly what the plan of the enemy is...that you could be the people of God, called and appointed for such a time as this...maybe even doing well in your career but what the enemy wants is that regardless of who you are, the moment money calls you, you stop what you are doing and bow to the demands of money.

How many times have you been moved by compassion and a desire to make a difference? But when the rubber hit the road, you couldn't help. You bowed to the absence of money and not the project you wanted to embark on. How many times have you had to choose between helping out a friend and paying a bill? I'm not suggesting not paying your bills...I am only highlighting how the system of this world; this Babylonian system seeks to keep you bound!

We have all seen how good people can be frustrated by the absence of finances. Great men of God can have their hearts infected because of the pressures of finances. Young girls and young boys in this country and around the world who have given themselves to all kinds of atrocities all because Money called, and they had to respond! Before you are too quick to judge someone's choices, you might need to check out the pressure they were under...it does not justify wrong behaviour...but it's important for us to realise that God wants to raise us up to be people who alleviate these pressures for many! That is ministry!

The Hebrew boys demonstrated to us that our only option is not bowing to the gold statue! The Hebrew boys demonstrated that by trusting God, by faith in God regardless of the pressures we face, we can defy the need to bow to the statue of God. God can raise you up and finance us to the place where we don't need to bow to our money needs. This is the place where start to get the attention of kings! This is when we start to operate on a different level as kings! When the church refuses to bow like every other organisation...when believers are flourishing the enemy gets mad!

Let us believe God! Lean on the Grace of God to give you all it takes to defy the demands of the gold statue! Expect the Jesus to turn up and help you when you. The enemy might not be able to do anything about the fact that you are a child of God, but it is strategy to keep you bound economically! And we need to choose to be those believers who will

refuse to stay within the limits that the enemy puts on them. It happens when we take the same position that the Hebrew boys took:

Daniel 3:16 -18 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

*Further reading: Exodus 5 (The enemy uses financial pressure to control the destiny of God's people. Take a moment to consider how things would have turned out if you were able to defy those pressures)*

### Some practical ways to contend for wealth

1. Be a good steward of your finances. Practice commanding the little you have. Practice making it work for you Luke 16:10-12 Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So, if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, *who will trust you with true riches?* And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?
2. Don't put your trust in riches. Proverbs 23:5 Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle toward heaven.
3. Believe God for the power to get wealth. His covenant needs to be established! Deuteronomy 8:18 - "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who

**gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.**

### Conclusion

Make no mistake about it, wealth is necessary for the accomplishment of the purpose of God. Wealth is not really defined by how much money you have. Real wealth is being able to command money to do the will of God. Wealth is a tool for fulfilling the kingdom advancing dream that God gave you. How much wealth is enough wealth? I believe you need to be as wealthy as that kingdom advancing dream inside you demands. We owe it to the dreams that God placed on the inside of us to be wealthy. That dream is not about you, it is about the kingdom. That's why, even though we get to enjoy being wealthy, wealth is not primarily about you. It is about the kingdom of God.

### Discussion

- Why do you think people including Christians have a problem with wealth?
- What would it take to fulfil the God given, kingdom advancing dream in your heart?
- What would you do to advance the kingdom of God if money was not a problem?
- How do you think the enemy hinders us from becoming wealthy?