

***Matthew 19:16-22***

*Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

**Money Obstacles**

The ship "Marine Electric", sank off the coast of Virginia early in 1983, costing the lives of thirty-one sailors. The ship's eight-ton anchor came loose and battered the hull of the ship until the ship went down. The vessel was destroyed by its own anchor. Although an anchor is supposed to provide safety and security, it sometimes destroys. This is particularly true in life when finances are viewed as an anchor.

On the front of the Polish five thousand "zloty bill" is a picture of Frederic Chopin and on the back a few bars of his "Polonaise." You can sit down at the piano and play it! To some, it may seem that all money makes music, the jingle of the cash register. But for many, money has played a very sad song. Some years ago a wealthy automobile dealer in Tampa, Florida, was shot to death by his wife during a domestic argument. When they arrested her, she said, "It's all because of money. I wish there had never been any money at all."

The Scriptures state: "But they who will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts which plunge men into death and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all evils, of which some having lusted after, they were seduced from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Tim. 6:8-10, MKJV).

God gives an entirely different view of money and possessions. Consider these "DIVINE ECONOMICS" presented in a seminar by The Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Canada: "How many of us, do you suppose, begin our day on the job with the objective in mind of working hard in order to make money to give away? "let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth"(Ephesians 4:28). When we are generous with our resources God has promised to enable us to continue to be generous. "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully... And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

God measures not by what is given, but by what is kept. "Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had." (Mark 12:43-44). When material things comes to hand we ought to ask ourselves, "What might I buy in heaven with this? "Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that fail not" (Luke 12:33-34).

Friend, even the smallest coin can shut out the light of the brightest star.

***What is my response:***

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