

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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What If You Could Sit At The Feet Of Jesus?

Mark Robbins, CPA

Have you ever wished you could sit at Jesus' feet and learn from the Master? While we don't have that privilege today as His first disciples did, God has given us the next best thing, His Word. We can learn from Jesus simply by reading the four gospels where Jesus taught many things. He taught about worldly wealth and possessions more than any other subject. In fact, Jesus said five times more about worldly wealth than faith or prayer.

If we were able to sit at Jesus' feet today, I believe He would continue this pattern. Since Jesus spent so much time on this, we should ask ourselves why?

Wealth and possessions are something that we understand because everyone has at least some of them. None of us can say we don't know what it is to have clothes, food, housing, and money. Some have more than others. A few—the rich—have more than they will ever need, while others—the poor—are always in need of more. Most people fall somewhere in between. Worldly possessions are something we can all relate to, and Christ knew that.

Christ often used examples of worldly wealth to teach spiritual truths about His kingdom. All but one reference to the kingdom of God began with a parable on money or possessions, and sixteen of Christ's thirty-eight parables dealt with these issues. There is no way of avoiding the importance Jesus placed on this subject.

Perhaps Jesus gave so much time and attention to teaching about worldly wealth and possessions because He knew of our need for vision. Christ knew it would be very difficult for us to see our

worldly wealth and possessions as God sees them. Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher, gave His whole ministry to helping people see life as God sees it. Why? So they would do as God says.

That should not be a hard concept for us to understand. Parents often get frustrated trying to help their children see life as they do. They instruct their children based on how they see life after years of building life experience. Parents see life differently than their children do, and parents desire to help their children avoid many hard lessons. Likewise, our heavenly Father wants us to see life as He sees it, so we will do as He says and enjoy a life of blessing. Consider Jesus' comment during His Sermon on the Mount, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:19, NKJV). If you see life as God does, your checkbook will point to heaven and will include investments in the Lord's work, which have eternal value.

We are all called to be stewards of our wealth and possessions. We must understand how God sees our wealth if we are going to be successful stewards for God. The fact that Jesus said five times more about this subject than any other indicates that He believed it would be the most difficult area for us. Over the new few weeks, we will examine several lessons Christ taught about worldly wealth so we can see as God sees and do what God says.

BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: bbcfoundation.org; e-mail: info@bbcfoundation.org