

The Treasure Principle: The Principle of Provision
Pastor Dennis Rouse
November 8-9, 2014

Matthew 6:19-21 NLT

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

Matthew 6:24 NLT

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

3 Types of Thinking in the Body of Christ as It Pertains to Money:

1. POVERTY THEOLOGY
2. PROSPERITY THEOLOGY
3. STEWARDSHIP THEOLOGY

Ecclesiastes 9:16 NKJ

Then I said: “Wisdom is better than strength. Nevertheless the poor man’s wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.”

Proverbs 22:7 NKJ

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

Matthew 25:14-30 NKJ

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had

received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

3 Things to Understand About Stewardship:

1. God gives us money according to our abilities to handle it.
2. God expects us to use our talent to produce an increase.
3. God will take our talent away if we don't use it and give it to someone who will.

4 Practical Stewardship Rules to Operate in God's Provision:

1. You must develop a skill that matches your gifting with something that meets a need relevant to the times.

Proverbs 13:4 NKJ

The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

Proverbs 10:4 NKJ

He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 21:5 NLT

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

Proverbs 22:29 NKJ

Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men.

2. You must develop a lifestyle that is simple and sacrificial in the early stages.

Proverbs 21:17 NLT

Those who love pleasure become poor; those who love wine and luxury will never be rich.

Pattern of Truly Wealthy in God:

- Frugal – live below their means
- Have a plan and follow it
- Vocationally aligned
- Not trapped by social status (not trying to flaunt wealth)

Proverbs 13:7 NIV

One person pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.

3. You must develop a financial strategy that makes your money work for you and not against you.

Proverbs 21:20 TLB

The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.

Proverbs 13:11 NIV

Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.

What Happens When You Invest:

at age 21

- \$5,000 yr. invested for 44 yrs.
- by age 65 = \$220,000 plus interest \$832,079 = \$1,052,029.00

at age 31

- \$5,000 yr. invested for 34 yrs.
- by age 65 = \$170,000 plus interest \$365,918 = \$540,918

at age 41

- \$5,000 yr. invested for 24 yrs.
- by age 65 = \$120,000 plus interest \$140,000 = \$260,397

4. You must establish a lifestyle of generosity that keeps God's hand in everything you're doing.

Proverbs 11:24-25 NLT

Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

Proverbs 22:9 NIV

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

2 Corinthians 9:6-10 NKJ

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace

abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness...