



Discipleship Essentials Pathway – Week 12

“Rich Man, Poor Man”

Acts 4:32-37 (NIV)

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. ³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

Acts 5:1-11 (NIV)

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife’s full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles’ feet. ³ Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.” ⁵ When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ⁶ Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. ⁷ About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.” ⁹ Peter said to her, “How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.” ¹⁰ At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the

young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

1. A rich man knows money isn't evil, but it is dangerous.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV)

For the LOVE of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

- Nothing in life has a greater potential for driving a wedge between you and God than money.

2. A rich man knows the money rules and is not ruled by money.

- ◆ Rule #1: It's not yours.

1 Corinthians 10:26 (NIV)

for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

Deuteronomy 8:18a (NIV)

But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth

- ◆ Rule #2: I am a steward not an owner.

- ◆ Rule #3: I give it generously.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

- Giving is a chance for your faith to intersect with God's faithfulness.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

- ◆ Rule #4: Earn it honestly.

Proverbs 11:1 (NIV)

The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.

- ◆ Rule #5: Save it wisely.

Proverbs 21:20 (NASB)

There is precious treasure and oil in the home of the wise, But a foolish person swallows it up.

Proverbs 13:11 (NIV)

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

- ◆ Rule #6: Spend it righteously.

3. A rich man knows money is a tool, a test, and a trademark.

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.