

Wealth in God's Kingdom

**Treasure in Heaven
(Kingdom Principles for Life)**

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Questions We'll Cover

Kingdom Principles for Life

1. Bible teaching: Plain meaning
2. Interpretations and practices throughout history: Early and Late
3. What makes sense? Is there one or more interpretations that stand out logically and make the most sense of all the data?
4. What about today? — Prayerful obedience

Questions to Consider

Kingdom Principles for Life

1. What does this teaching mean?
2. Is this life really possible?
3. What **scares** us about this teaching? What **excites** us about this teaching?

Bible Teaching 1

Luke 18:18-28—The “very rich” ruler

18 Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

19 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 20 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ”

21 And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” 22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, **“You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”**

23 But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. 24 And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, **“How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”**

26 And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” 27 But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

28 Then Peter said, “See, we have left all and followed You.”

Bible Teaching 2

Luke 12:13-34—Greed, Foolishness, Worldly obsession, & Worldly fear

13 Then one from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” 14 But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” 15 And [Jesus] said to them, “Take heed and **beware of covetousness**, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ 18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” ’

20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ 21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

22 Then He said to His disciples, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. 23 Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds?

25 And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 26 If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28 If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? 29 And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind.

30 For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. 31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

32 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Bible Teaching 3

Acts 2:44-47 — How the early church shared

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Bible Teaching 4

Acts 4:32-37 — How the early church shared

32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Early Teaching, 1st-2nd Century

Didache, The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, ch. 4 (50–120 AD)

“You shall not turn away from him who is in want, but you shall share all things with your brother, and shall not say that they are your own. For if you are partakers in that which is immortal, how much more in things that are mortal?”

<https://thehistoricfaith.com/en/library/ante-nicene-volume-7/ante-nicene-volume-7/the-teaching-of-the-twelve-apostles#paragraph-86765>

Early Teaching, 1st-2nd Century

Hermas, The Shepherd of Hermas 2.31-32 (90–150 AD)

“Instead of buying land, **buy afflicted souls, as each one is able.** Visit widows and orphans, and do not neglect them. Spend your wealth and all your preparations which you received from the lord on such lands and houses. For **this is why the master made you rich, so that you might do these services for him.** And it is much better to buy such lands and possessions and houses as you will find in your own [eternal] city when you come to live in it. This is a noble and holy kind of spending. It brings no sorrow or fear, but joy.”

<https://thehistoricfaith.com/en/library/sermon-on-mount/by-topic/treasure-in-heaven#paragraph-533>

Early Teaching, 2nd Century

Justin Martyr, The First Apology 1.185-186 (C. 130–165 AD)

“The wealthy among us help the needy. **Those who are well-off and willing** give what each person thinks is best. What is collected is given to the president. He supports the **orphans** and **widows**. He also supports those who, because of **sickness** or any other reason, are **in need**. He supports those who are in **prison** and the **strangers** staying among us. **In a word, he takes care of everyone who is in need.**”

<https://thehistoricfaith.com/en/library/sermon-on-mount/by-topic/treasure-in-heaven#paragraph-535>

Early Teaching, 2nd & 3rd Century

Clement of Alexandria, Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?, ch. 18 (C. 190–215 AD)

“[The] thing destined to live above all and first is the soul; [and around the soul, virtue.] [And,] when virtue grows up, it saves, while vice kills[.] [So], it is now plainly evident that **the soul, when it is poor in those things by which someone is corrupted by wealth, is saved, and when it is rich in those things which wealth aggravates, is killed.** So let us no longer seek the cause of our end anywhere else than in the state and disposition of the soul, both toward obedience to God and purity, and toward transgression of commandments and the gathering up of vice.”

Summary Thoughts

Wealth in God's Kingdom

Genesis 3:19

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

1 Timothy 6:18

Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share...

Ephesians 4:28

28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.