

Opening texts: 1 Timothy 6:5-12, Luke 12:15, 16:13, Proverbs 23:4

Do you recall when Mary took a pound of very expensive/costly ointment and anointed Jesus with it; and who was there to immediately rebuke her but covetous Judas! John 12:4-6

Then saith one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray Him, why was not this (expensive) ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein"

THIS covetousness & love of money ensnared an Apostle of Christ! Judas walked with the Lord for 3-1/2 years! He spent intimate time with the Lord in private! But his love for money made him hold on to IT and to DESPISE the Lord! We ought to see very clearly here in Judas the love of money being the ROOT of all evil!

Let us take heed to ourselves that we would not betray our Lord for earthly riches or for "another" love! Matthew 26:14-16

Because Judas was covetous/loved money, he drowned himself; (like a sinking ship when it falls below the surface, never again to rise); he cast off his Lord and his faith was shipwreck for 30 pieces of silver! He destroyed and ruined his own soul, piercing himself through with many sorrows until he took his own life.

Derek Kidner: "If anything is worse than the addiction money brings, it's the emptiness it leaves. Man, with eternity in his heart needs better nourishment than this!"

Having reviewed these NT references/warnings, we now go to Solomon!

Ecclesiastes 5:10-17

(V10-11): Qoheleth teaches us about the snare and trap of loving money, which he beheld/considered in his day and in his kingdom.

In all probability, he considered the love of money from his own personal experience with all of the riches that he had amassed in his great kingdom. (4:8)

Solomon had more riches and stuff than any man or woman could ever wish for or desire; and it was all given to him by the blessing of God TO TEACH US that is has NO eternal value!

For after he had gotten it all, and after he sat on his throne and admired it and surveyed all of it; it brought no contentment to his soul! What good was it? It was therefore worthless! Vanity!

(V11): The more I amassed, saith Qoheleth, (in lands, orchards, cattle, gold, and buildings); the larger and greater my estate and kingdom became, the more servants I needed to tend to and govern all of it.

As my goods increased, they were increased that consumed them!

(V12): Those (in the world) who lust for riches, (who actually become rich) DO NOT know or experience the satisfaction and restfulness of a good night's sleep.

But the sleep of someone who has labored and worked hard all day to honorably support their family is sweet and restful; it is inviting and longed after.

Once again, those that would be rich pierce themselves through with many sorrows; they become so anxious and concerned for (their first love); which is their riches and all their possessions and stuff that they cannot rest in sleep.

And so that which they longed for and labored for (their money) becomes the source of their misery!

Proverbs 15:16: "Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith"

(V13-14): Riches lusted after and hoarded to your own hurt!

James 5:1-6, Luke 12:16-21. He hoards it, or he loses it!

(V15-16): None of your riches or earthly wealth or fame will follow you into eternity!

Job had it right; he was a very rich man! But then after God allowed it to all be taken from him, he confessed. Job 1:20-22, Psalm 49:6-20

(V17): The bitter end to one who lived for his riches and not for God!

Proverbs 11:4: "Riches profit NOT in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death"

Luke 18:24: "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the Kingdom of God!"

But beloved, let it be the true riches from the LORD that you DESIRE, and the unsearchable riches of Christ!

Can you put a value on the salvation of your soul?

Proverbs 16:16, Matthew 6:19-24, 1 Timothy 6:11, Proverbs 30:7-9

Proverbs 10:22: "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it"