Day 1 — The Limitation of Wealth

Scripture: Psalm 49:6-7

"[6] those who trust in their wealth
and boast of their great riches?
[7] No one can redeem the life of another
or give to God a ransom for them—"

Here the Psalmist is clearly identifying the limitations of the value of money.

Money and wealth can gain us great possessions, and allow us to enjoy many human creations.

But in terms of salvation it has no value.

The world pursues riches as if that is the main purpose in life.

They go by the mantra "person who dies with the most stuff wins."

But in reality, the world is missing the main point of life

John 3:16 states

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

From dust everyone came, and to dust we shall return.

And although wealth can give us many possessions, it is valueless in terms of our salvation.

Matthew 6:19-21 states

"[19] “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."

We have but one life here on Earth.

And are we going to spend it gaining and holding onto as many possessions as we can?

Or are we going to use our time and efforts gathering for ourselves treasure in Heaven, doing what the Lord is calling us to do.

We must not fall into the possessions game that the world plays.

And distract us from God's will that He has for us.

It is a dangerous trap, and the love of it breeds the root of all evil.

Matthew 6:24 states

"[24] “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Here, instead of just money Jesus is talking about the god of money mammon.

We cannot serve 2 masters, either we are living for Jesus Christ, or we are living for the world, for mammon.

We cannot serve both the god of money and Jesus Christ, and it is shown in the story of the rich man who approached Jesus.

Matthew 19-21 states

"Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

The young man had to choose between serving Jesus, or serving money. He could not serve both.

Even though he was following the commandments of the Torah, he still had to give up serving money

We must remain focused on the main point of life, to live is Christ.

Not the worlds point of life, to pursue possessions.

Possessions and wealth have no value in terms of salvation, but living in Jesus as our Lord and Savior from our sins, does.

Just as the Psalmist is claiming here, in Psalm 49:6-7

Reflection

Do I sometimes fall into the trap of loving my possessions

Do I have any possession that would be tough for me to give up if the Lord had called me to give it up?

Prayer

Dear Lord, help me to remain focused on the main goal of life; to live for You. To live is for Christ and to die is gain is what paul says, and I must do the same. I know that I do live here on Earth, but help me not to play the worlds game. I need to just focus on Your game, to be in relationship with you, and to spread the Good news of You dying for our sins. So long as I am in You and doing Your will, all of my needs will be taken care, and I will one day get to be with you in eternity, witnessing the treasure that thieves cannot steal, and moths cannot destroy. Amen.

Today's Thought

I will insure that there are no possessions or money that have a high place in my life over my Lord.

Day 2 — The False Sense of Security

Scripture: Psalm 49:12-13

12 People, despite their wealth, do not endure;
they are like the beasts that perish.

13 This is the fate of those who trust in themselves,
and of their followers, who approve their sayings.

The Psalmist here is pointing out the false sense of security that wealth brings

Although wealth gains us financial protection, it does not endure us.

Just as we had received it, so easily can it be taken away from us.

And even if we do hold onto it, all of our work and wealth gets handed to the person after us.

A person who could just as easily let it go all to waste.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-19 states

18 I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, 19 and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.

This is why the worlds main goal of life is so unfulfilling.

The world is trying to fill a God sized hole with the never ending and unsatisfying pursuit of money.

And no matter how much they gain, it is never enough.

Ecclesiastes 4:6 states

"Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind."

It is our reliance on God that allows us to be sustained, given enough, and content with what we have and not seeking more.

This reliance must only be on our Lord Jesus Christ, we cannot also have the same sense of reliance on our money.

because in the end, nobody can serve both Jesus and the god of money, therefore they perish.

The Psalmist states that the fate of those who spend their lives toiling for money, all have this same deathly fate.

That by the never ending pursuit of money and false sense of security they have from it, is a reflection of who they are really living for and trusting in, themselves.

We must ignore the foolish trust in ourselves and trust only in the Lord, for it is Him who establishes us.

Proverbs 3:5-6 states

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding, in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight"

God is the only whom we should trust, for He is the one who makes our paths straight.

Money allows us to purchase materials, but it is God who gives us life, who makes our paths straight, and who supplies all of our needs.

Do not let money cause you to fall into the trap of living for yourself, instead of living for your God.

Reflection

Is my pursuit of money causing me to live for myself as opposed to living for my God?

Am I content with having just one handful?

Prayer

Dear Lord, please encourage me to use my money to honor You more. Please protect me from falling into the love of money trap and living for myself. Help me to seek You, that I may learn more about how You are the breath of life, and the living water. You take care of the birds and animals, so they do not have to worry about what to eat, which means You supply us, Your children that much more. I need to lean more into this and have it written all over my heart, that satan's temptations of endless pursuit of money doesnt have me. Thank you for Your great power over him. Amen.

Today’s Thought

I will work on being content with one handful as opposed to two with toil and chasing after the wind

Day 3 — A Faithful Redeemer

Scripture: Psalm 49:15

"But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead;

he will surely take me to himself."

Here the Psalmist is pointing out WHO has the ability to give salvation, God alone.

While the rich consider themselves blessed while here on Earth, they are like beasts that will perish.

Just like we can't wager with sin, we cannot wager with the love of money.

Romans 6:23 states,

"For the wages of sin is death, but te gift of God is eternal life in our Lord Jesus Christ"

Jesus is the only Way, the only Truth, and the only Life.

He is the only Way to get to the Father, and the only Way to eternity.

Our ability to be alive in Christ as opposed to being dead in our sins cannot be bought.

Our salvation has no price value.

The only way to cross over from death to eternal life with our Lord Jesus Christ is by repenting and accepting Him as our Lord and Savior

John 3:16 states

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

We cannot wager between being a slave to money as opposed to being a servant for Christ.

Will we serve ourselves by prioritizing money, or will we serve in God's holy kingdom?

Reflection

Is the time I spent reflecting my belief that Jesus is my Redeemer?

Am I honouring the Lord with my possessions?

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for being my Redeemer. As I struggle in my sin and my tendencies to go after money, You continue to call me. You push me to my best, call me away from sin, and teach me how to live a life bearing good fruit. Help me to show in time each day that my heart is after the treasure in Heaven, as opposed to the treasures in Earth. And, with what possessions I do gain here in my short time on Earth, help me to honour you with the first fruits of my gain. Amen.

Today's Thought

I will prioritize spending time with my Redeemer, as opposed to prioritizing my time for money.

Day 4 — Our Place Amongst God

Scripture: Psalm 50:9-10

"9 I have no need of a bull from your stall

or of goats from your pens,

10 for every animal of the forest is mine,

and the cattle on a thousand hills."

The Psalmist here is talking about the sacrifices His people would make to the Lord.

Although God called His people to make sacrifices like grain offerings, sin offerings to atone for their sin, it wasn't the actual act of sacrifice that forgave them for their sins.

It was God alone who was willing to forgive His people's sins, only after the sacrifice.

If God so chooses, He can and would be able to forgive our sins without sacrifice, yet, He made this the way so we might understand the cost of sin.

Matthew 9:6 states

"But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home."

This shows that there is nothing that we can give our Lord that He doesn't already have.

He is the Lord of all, He doesn't need His people that He created, yet He chooses to love us and have relationships with us.

We do not reach God, He is the one that came down to us, gave His life up for us, so we may be forgiven of our sins said that we accept His sacrifice and make Him Savior and Lord over our lives

He did not have to die on a cross in order for sins to be forgiven, He has the power to forgive sins.

Yet in order to show His love, humility and cost of sin in a perfect way, dying on the cross for our sins was the only way. Giving up His perfect life to be the sacrifice was the perfect representation of what sin costs us, life.

Which is why we must understand our place with God, it is His mercy, His love, and HIs choosing to be in relationship with us that allows us to have life, He does not need us, and we do not deserve anything yet, yet He deserves everything from us. Our praise, our worship, and our lives. For God is the breath of life.

Reflection

Do I sometimes act out of place and demand things from God?

Do I sometimes struggle with pride rather than humbling myself like Jesus did?

Prayer

Dear Lord, Your love for us is everlasting. You do not need me, yet You choose to love me and use me for Your kingdom. The fact that you have the power to do anything in the world but still choose to use my sinful self to accomplish some of Your wills just shows how much you love me, and I really appreciate that. Please help me to keep in mind my place in the relationship, and always come to you humbled as I should. Amen.

Today's Thought

I will work on keeping in mind my place in the relationship I have with my Lord, to always come humbled.

Day 5 — He Will Deliver Us

Scripture: Psalm 50:15

"[15] and call on me in the day of trouble;

I will deliver you, and you will honor me."

This is a Psalm of Asaph, where he talks from God's perspective to His children, but also to the wicked person.

Here He is talking to His children.

The Lord says to call on Him in the day of trouble, and He will deliver you.

Sometimes we fail to trust that God will come through for us and guide us in some of our big decisions.

We worry and we rush and we take it into our own hands.

Yet God says He will deliver us if we call on Him, He will guide us.

Joel Chapter 2:18 states

"Then the Lord was jealous for his land
and took pity on his people."

This is after God will send His army on an adulterous world.

He still cares for His people, for He is filled with grace and mercy.

He will deliver his people like He delivered them from the hands of Egypt and slavery.

Which is why we must lean on Him and rely on Him, not only when we are going through strife, but also when we need guidance.

He will come through for us.

Just like He did with Daniel in the Lions den.

Just like He did with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery pit.

And just like He did with Southern Israel and king Hezekiah vs the Assyrians.

Even if His response/answer seems late, like when Jesus came to raise Lazarus from the dead, it really is Gods perfect timing.

So trust His perfect timing when He is to deliver you, or when He is to give you an answer.

Luke 12:25 states

"[25] Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?"

Worrying gets us nowhere, so trust in the Lord and His timing, do not take it upon yourself, you are not your own deliverer, but God is our deliverer.

Reflection

Do I sometimes feel like Gods answer is late and take action in my own hands?

Do have a tough time leaning on God's perfect timing for deliverance in my life?

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for being my deliverer. Thank you for hearing me when I call upon you, and seeing everything that I am going through. It is really nice to know that I have You watching me, ready to take justice in Your perfect timing. Help me to not take it upon myself to make decisions that are meant for You. Help me to be patient and trust Your perfect timing, for you are my deliverer. Help me while I am going through struggle, that You will deliver me, for you are good God, and You have perfect timing. Amen.

Today's Thought

I will trust and wait upon the Lord for His perfect timing deliverance.