



Sermon Preached July 7th 2019
“God’s Plan For Building Wealth (Part Three)”

SERMON OUTLINE

Main Idea: God has wisdom for building wealth.

- I. God has a plan for building wealth and it will not happen quickly. Proverbs 13:11
- II. God has a plan for building wealth and it requires diligence. Proverbs 10:4
- III. God has a plan for building wealth and it includes pretending. Proverbs 13:7

GETTING STARTED

1. What major point from the sermon stood out to you as particularly helpful? Why?

DIRECTOR’S CUT

“Generosity is Important”

God has a plan for you to build wealth and it includes being generous. One of the reasons we build wealth, as Christians, is to be generous. We recognize that all good gifts come down from the Father and we desire to be good stewards of the wealth he has given to us. One of the ways we steward God’s money well is to be generous. The book of Proverbs speaks extensively on the importance of generosity. (c.f. Proverbs 11:24; 22:9) Consider Proverbs 19:17 and its implications, **“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”**

This verse is intriguing to me for a couple reasons. First, it pictures God as the borrower! It equates our generosity to the poor as giving a loan to God. This is provocative because we recognize that all of our wealth ultimately belongs to God and we are only stewards. However, this verse seeks to motivate generosity by showing that when we are kind to the poor we are being kind to God. It reveals that the greatest commandment cannot really be fulfilled without the second greatest commandment. (c.f. Matthew 22:36-40) Loving God and loving people go hand in hand.

Second, the proverb encourages generosity based on the fact that God will reward us. God could have said, “you need to be generous because I said so” and that would be sufficient for me. However, God entices the reader to be generous to the poor based on the motivation that they will be blessed through their generosity. I recognize this verse may make some of us uncomfortable because it seems to suggest a transactional relationship with God. However, I do not want us to shy away from the plain reading of the verse. God rewards, in some way, generosity to the poor. The verse doesn’t say how or when or in what situations the reward will come but the author is intending to communicate that generosity is rewarded by God.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The author of Proverbs paints borrowing money in a negative light. (c.f. Prov. 6:1-5; 11:15; 17:18; 22:7; 22:26-27) However, why do you think God is depicted as the one who borrows, in Prov. 19:17? Are there any other reasons the author would equate generosity with giving a loan to God, besides the ones I mentioned?
2. What does it mean for us to be generous? The book of Proverbs doesn’t give us a fixed number or percentage of what generosity looks like. What can we gather from Scripture about the definition of generosity?