



E V A N G E L I C A L C H U R C H  
B I R M I N G H A M

Moral living in an immoral world

## The Christian and possessions

### THE BLESSING OF WEALTH:

What was the significance of wealth for God's Old Testament people?

Gen.39:2-6; Ex.3:21-22; Dt.7:13; Job.42:12

Is the same true for New Testament Christians?

Jam.1:17; Eph.1:3; 2Cor.8:9; Lk.18:22



Act.3:1-8 Did Peter really have no money to give the beggar? (look back to 2:44-45) What's the significance of this?

### THE DANGERS OF WEALTH:

What are the dangers of wealth? Mt.19:23-24;  
Lk.12:13-21; 1Tim.6:9-10,17; Jam5:1-5

What is the root problem? Ex.20:17; Col.3:5

"I pity you Christians in the West – all these *things* in the way of your relationship with God"

[poor Asian Christian]

### HOW MUCH WEALTH IS ENOUGH?

Should Christians own anything at all?



Mk.10:21; Act.4:32-35; Act.5:4  
How do we decide how much to own?  
Ex.16:11-20; Mt.6:11; Prov.30:8-9

Mt. 6:31-34; Mk.10:29-30  
Is it OK for believers to have savings? Insurances?  
Pensions?

### THE OBLIGATIONS OF WEALTH:

Dt.15:4, 7, 11<sup>a</sup>  
Who is this addressed to? Why the apparent discrepancy  
between these verses? (look at v.5)

Who should we first and foremost be sharing our  
possessions with?  
1Jn.3:17; Jam.2:14-17

The church has limited resources. What criteria should  
we use to decide who to help? ITim.5:3-10  
What about poverty overseas? How should we respond?  
Act.11:27-30; 1Cor.16:1-2; 2Cor.8:1-4

What about aid for those who aren't God's people?  
Dt.14:28-29; Jer.29:17; Rom.12:20-21

Mt.25:31-40  
This passage is often used to justify social action. Is that  
really what Jesus is saying here?

**"Gain all you can  
Save all you can  
Give all you can"**  
[Charles Wesley]



**"The rich man is not the man who owns  
a lot, but the man who gives a lot."**

[John Chrysostom]