

**Foolproof- Week #9**  
**Small Group Notes**  
**February 25 and 28, 2021**

**Introduction:**

**What do you like the most about money? What do you like the least?**

**What is a lesson that you have learned about money that has proved to help you? Hurt you?**

**Why do you think that Solomon was so adamant about teaching on money?**

One of the greatest sources of personal happiness is also one of the greatest sources of sorrow. If we're not careful, the love of money can consume us as we choose greed over personal contentment in Christ.

**Discuss:**

**1. The Wise Have Redefined Wealth**

- Money is never the best indicator of a wealthy life. (Read Proverbs 15:16-17; Mark 8:36-37; Proverbs 11:28; Proverbs 17:1)
- Wisdom invests in relationships over possessions and experiences. (Proverbs 23:4-5)

Explain: Especially in our materialistic and consumer age, we constantly want *more* and we fear living with **little**. Yet life is better with **little** if lived with reverence and honor to God (**the fear of the Lord**). To have **great treasure** and great **trouble** is not a good life. Because **the fear of the Lord** spares us from much **trouble**, it is better to have that than **great treasure**.

Ask:

**What was something that you heard from the sermon or before that helped you to define wealth?**

**What are different ways that we make assumptions about someone's wealth? What are some of the great treasure that you have in your life that are not related to money?**

**How have you had to check sometimes the motivation regarding money?**

## 2. The Wise Have the Discipline to Wait

- It's foolish to try and upgrade your lifestyle through credit
- If you look to stuff for your significance the result is often slavery.  
(Read Matthew 6:24)

Explain: Jesus cautioned His followers on the impossibility of serving two masters. A slave is owned by another person. Both the world and the Lord demand ownership of our lives. Jesus sharply declared that such dual loyalty is impossible. Eternal values and temporal values are mutually exclusive; one cancels the power of the other. If we're going to collect the right kind of treasure, we need to serve the right Master. Jesus taught that His followers must choose between loyalty to God and loyalty to money.

Ask:

**What are ways that we sometimes look to stuff for our significance?**

**What stuff in your life tends to pull your attention away from God most easily? How can you counteract that tendency?**

**How does materialism affect our ability to share the gospel? Think in terms of reputation, attitudes, priorities, resources, and so forth.**

## 3. The Wise Avoid Get Rich Quick Schemes

- Read Proverbs 12:11; Proverbs 21:5; Proverbs 28:20

Explain: The one who wants to avoid work, find shortcuts, and cut corners will find that failure instead of **plenty**. Their path leads **surely to poverty**. As one pastor wrote, "Even if no criminal means are resorted to, yet the immoderate desire, the perseverance in every track of Mammon, the laboring night and day for the grand object, and the delight and confidence in the acquisition all prove the idolatrous heart and will not go unpunished."

Ask:

**What is something that you waited and saved to purchase? How did you feel after doing so?**

**What are ways that our culture chases fantasies? What are ways that we can let that happen in our own lives?**

**What are some ways that we give our whole attention to acquiring riches? How can we stop giving our attention to the fleeting riches?**

#### 4. The Wise Work with Integrity

- Read Proverbs 11:8; Proverbs 1:10-14, 19
- Wisdom understands that when we attempt to take advantage of someone that someone becomes us!

Explain: Whatever trouble they experience in this life is only temporary, and they will see His deliverance in this life and especially in the life to come. Therefore, we can look at the times that we either have plenty or little not to impact our faith, in fact, each life experience should strengthen our faith that our true goal is to be with Christ forever!

Ask:

**What are the promises for those who walk in righteousness and integrity? For those who walk in unrighteousness and deceit?**

**How does our integrity with finances reveal how we reconcile God's ownership of everything?**

**Is there any deceit in how I am earning my money? What are ways that we can make this right immediately in our lives?**