****October 16, 2016**

**What is God really like? – Part 7**

* God’s word reveals His plan for everything: including wealth.
* By the way: Poverty & wealth is relative:

- Between us & between God & us.

**Today’s Focus:**

*God the creator & owner has* ***generously*** *given us the earth*

*and everything in it to steward*

**Psalm 24:1 – Ownership** / **Psalm 115:16 - Stewardship**

* Sin and fallen man has perverted God’s plan.
* Only through Christ is the cycle of ‘fear & greed’ based on ‘scarcity’ broken by love & service based on ‘abundant supply’ (richness).

**Both OT & NT speak of ‘abundance’.**

* **Creation** reveals God’s abundance / generous mindset.
* **Abraham** (the father of our faith) was very rich. **Gen 13:1-2**
* Israelites (undeserving) **left Egypt** with silver & gold:

**Psalm 105:37**

* **Solomon** built a temple for God (worth $100’s of millions):
1. **Kings 6:1**
* God is generous to the widow. **1 Kings 17:16**
* **Jesus fed the 5000** (even leftovers) **John 6:11-12**
* The **early church’s** God’s generosity in their giving: **Acts 2:45**

**Jesus gives perspective:**

* **Jesus &** His family had all their needs met: (Wise men)
* **Jesus preached** the gospel to the poor. **Luke 4:17-18**
* **Jesus** became **‘poor’** on **the cross** on our behalf.**2 Corinthians 8:9**
* **Jesus cautions** us through the apostle Paul: **1 Timothy 6:17**

**Final Take Away:**

*Prosperity with a Purpose*

* Remember God is our source in everything & wealth:

**Deuteronomy 8:18** *But you shall remember the LORD your God: for it is* ***he that gives you power to get wealth****, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto your fathers, as it is this day.*

-Practically: be generous first to **family**, then the **church**, then the **nation**.

**Communion:**

**Psalm 65:11** *You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with* ***abundance.***

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**Notes**

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