

"It's not about you."

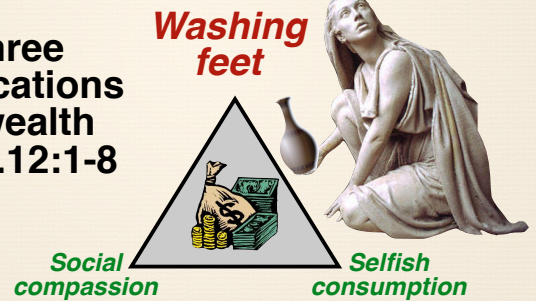
"It's not about your neighbor either."

"It's about God's purpose for your life, through a relationship with Christ."

Purpose driven Wealth

Observation #1
*It is an instrument of worship
not an object of worship.*

Three applications of wealth in Jn.12:1-8



Observation #2
It is an opportunity to respond to the cry of the poor.

The middle 20% have 4% of the wealth.

The 2nd highest 20% have 11% of the wealth.

The bottom 40% have 0.3% of the wealth.

The top 20% have 85% of the wealth in the U.S. (43% of the wealth is with the top 1%)



50% of the world's population lives on less than \$2.50 per day

Another 30% live on less than \$10 per day

Source - Norton & Airely, 2012, <http://ppd.sagepub.com/>

Source - Wealth, Income, and Power by G. William Bomhoff

Poverty is not just about material goods.

Social

- not connected to a supportive community or the social structures of power.



Political

- not free to effect change in one's life situation.

Spiritual

- not empowered from within with hope, dignity, and purpose from a relationship with God.

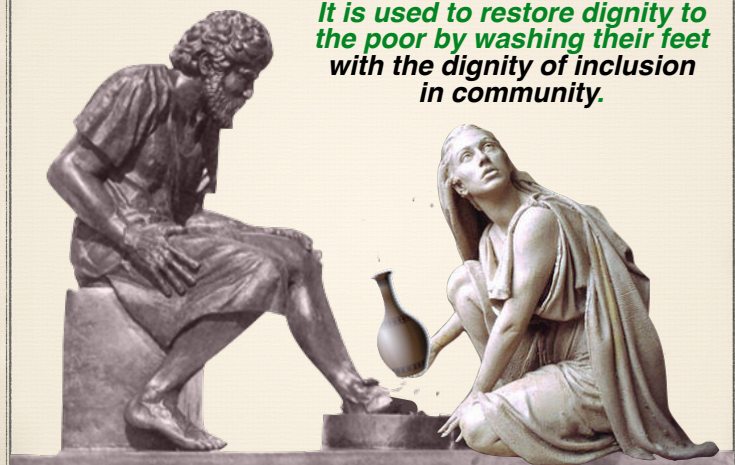
- Material**
- not able to afford basics (food, shelter, etc.)

In the Bible, care for the poor is framed in the context of justice and human dignity.

Isaiah 10

"1 Woe to those who make **unjust laws**, to those who issue **oppressive decrees**, 2 to **deprive** the poor of their **rights** and **withhold justice** from the **oppressed** of my people, making widows their prey and **robbing** the fatherless."

Observation #3
It is used to restore dignity to the poor by washing their feet with the dignity of inclusion in community.



When Jesus washed the disciple's feet

he honored them by using his wealth (as their Lord) to include them in intimate fellowship with himself.

- He commanded his disciples to do the same to each other.
- We do this when we use our material wealth, social position, listening ear, & caring touch to affirm the dignity of those who are vulnerable (poor, marginalized, etc.).

Leviticus 10:15

“You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be **partial to the poor or defer to the great**, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.”

Some federally run welfare programs miss the point of the real need.

The dignity of the individual

They define the need as economic only.

- neglecting the social, political, and spiritual foundations to human dignity, and community.

They encourage a culture of dependence.

- rather than a culture of confidence, responsibility, and interdependence.

They create a inefficient welfare system.

- where much of the economic resources go to people who manage the system rather than to those who really need the help.

Observation #4

Material wealth can be both a blessing and a challenge.

Contrary to a popular opinion of the political left

Contrary to a popular opinion of the political right

the Bible teaches that material wealth is from God and is not evil.

the Bible teaches that those who have it did not earn it and should willfully share it.



1 Timothy 6

“5 . . . men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, **who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.** 6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. 7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. 9 But **those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.** 10 For **the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil**, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.”

1 Timothy 6

“17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world **not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches**, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to **be generous and ready to share**, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”

What does the Bible say about wealth?



enjoy, share, & beware!

As a blessing from God be thankful.

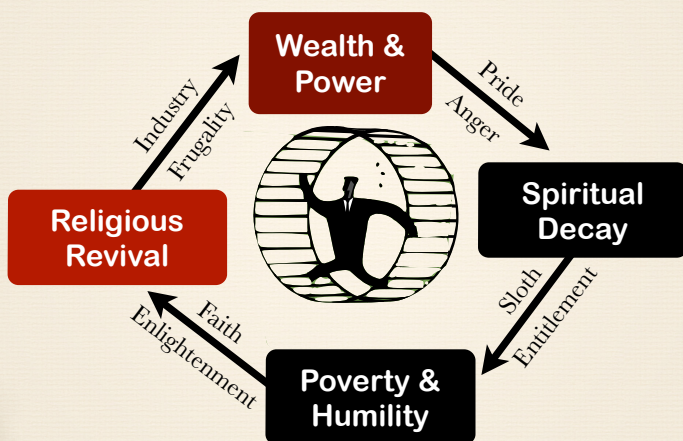
As an opportunity for ministry be responsible.



As a dangerous deception don't let it define you.

As a desensitizer to God, people, & your spiritual need don't let it blind you.

John Wesley's dilemma



Generosity is not only about money, but about respect, caring, time, & interest.

God's people are marked by:

- (1) *their sense of justice,*
- (2) *their hard work,*
- (3) *and their generosity.*

Ephesians 4:28

"Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to **share with him who has need.**"

Rule of thumb #1

"Remember that your greatest asset is not material."

Acts 3:6-7

"Silver and gold have we none but what we have we will give to you. . . And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up. . ."

Rule of thumb #2

“Don’t give money to people
you don’t know.”

first

get to know them
by giving them time
& a caring ear, then
consider other help.

Rule of thumb #3

“Be generous, even when you
have little to share materially.”

Material wealth is a gift,
generosity is a sign.