

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 4:28

Lesson #28

10 Commandments of Application

02/11/2018

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.”

“Lay aside” **taking from others.**

“Put on” **productive work**
so you can **share with the needy.**

1

Witness is a **SHOW** and tell expression of faith, hope, and love.

- **Speak** the truth lovingly.
- **Suffer** offenses graciously.
- **Share** material possessions willingly.

The point is what **WE DO** and why; not what is accomplished and how.

1 Corinthians 3:6

“I planted, Apollos watered but God was causing the growth.”



2

What does the Bible say about wealth?



3

As a blessing from God be thankful.

As an opportunity for ministry be responsible.



As a false messiah don't let it seduce you.

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

4

Ten Commandments



of Poverty and Wealth

1. Give attention to what wealth can do **FOR** the **needy** and more so to what it can do **TO** those who have it and keep it.



As a false messiah don't let it seduce you.

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

6

2. Respect the limits of material wealth to solve our problems.

- God gave the children of Israel the gold of the Egyptians and they made of it a calf to worship.

Ecclesiastes 10:19

“Men prepare a meal for enjoyment, and wine makes life merry, and **money is the answer to everything.**”

- It is the sign of **SUCCESS** in this world.
- It is the **ANSWER** to our problems.
- It is the sign of God's **FAVOR**.



3. Manage your wealth as a steward of a gift in service of another's agenda.



“I earned it and it's ALL MINE.”



“I am blessed and as a steward I gladly share.”

Idolatry starts when we forget that we are stewards of God's stuff.

4. Give up trying to have it both ways.

“They say it is better to be poor and happy than rich and miserable, but how about a compromise like moderately rich and just moody?”



Princess Diana

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5. Resist the desensitization of wealthy.

Bottom 20%	2nd 20%	3rd 20%	4th 20%	Top 20%

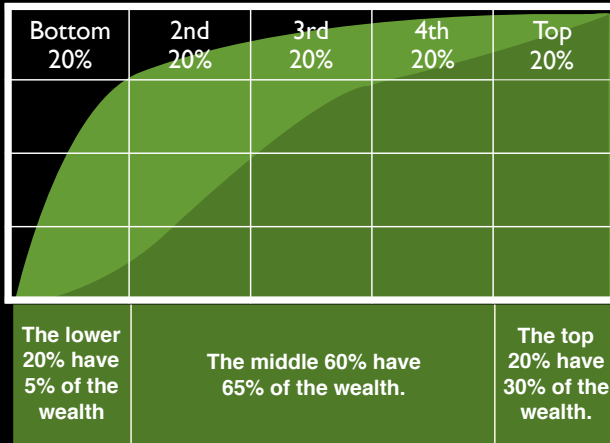
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The socialist ideal

Bottom 20%	2nd 20%	3rd 20%	4th 20%	Top 20%
The lower 20% have 10% of the wealth		The middle 60% have 65% of the wealth.		The top 20% have 25% of the wealth.

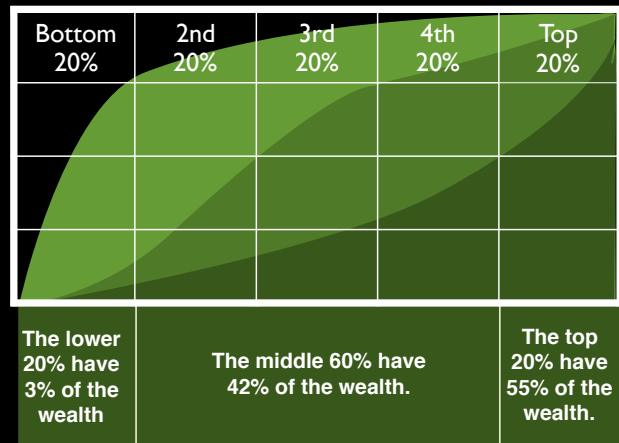
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What Americans think it should be



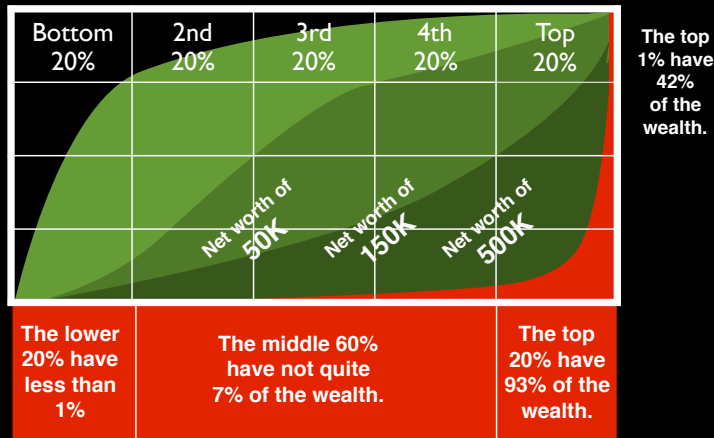
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What Americans think it is



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What it really is



Source - Michael Norton of Harvard Business School & Dan Ariely of Duke 2011

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In a commercial culture everything tends to be reduced to a "needed commodity."



"Marketing is creating wants that become needs and then purchases."

We are a culture of people spending money we don't have to buy things we don't need to impress people we don't like.

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6. Love people and use things, not vice versa.



"Make all you can, save all you can, share all you can."

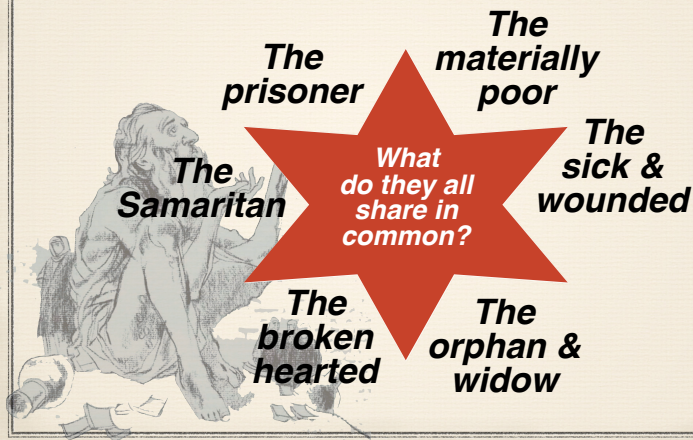
We are a community of people who work hard and use the things we have to love all those God loves.

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Competition without the cooperation and compassion of community is costly.

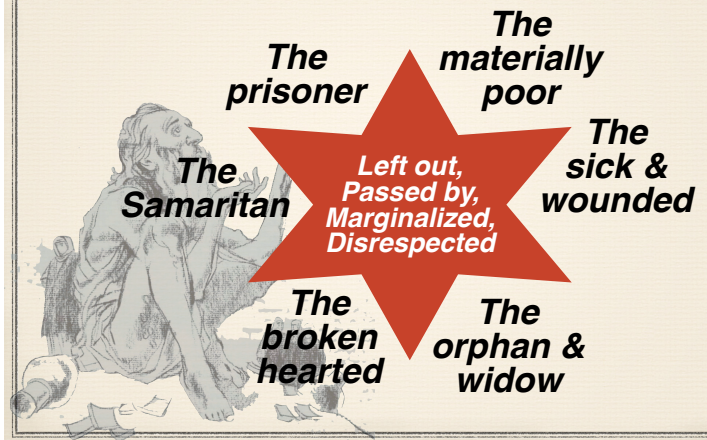
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What attracted Jesus to these people?



18

What attracted Jesus to these people?



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7. Remember that poverty is about dignity more than money.

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



Spiritual disorientation
- not enlightened to realize personal dignity, power, and hope.

Cultural retardation
- not supported by a healthy tradition.

Social isolation
- not connected to a supportive community.

Political marginalization
- not empowered socially to affect change in one's life situation.

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Psalm 69:33

"For the Lord hears the **needy** and does not despise His who are prisoners."

Psalm 72:12-13

"For he will deliver the **needy** when he cries for help, the afflicted also, and him who has no helper. He will have compassion on the poor and **needy**, and the lives of the **needy** he will save."

"Jewish ethics teaches that poverty is an unjust condition and a violation of human dignity. Therefore, our Jewish tradition unequivocally asserts: any society that calls itself just must take care of its most vulnerable. We must help the poor to recapture their dignity . . ."

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8. Give the poor money along with a hope that it can't provide.



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9. Promote public policies that address the problems behind poverty.

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.**"

Laws that make **divorce easy, quality education unavailable, personal responsibility hard, and rehabilitation for prisoners scarce** are unjust.

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