

# If I Were a Rich Man!

By

**Rabbi Edward L. Nydle /B'nai Avraham**

*"Dear G-d, you made many, many poor people.*

*I realize, of course, that it's no shame to be poor.*

*But it's no great honor either!*

*So, what would have been so terrible if I had a small fortune?"*

*...And it won't make one bit of difference if I answer right or wrong.*

*When you're rich, they think you really know!*

**Matt. 6:21** *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

**Luke 12:29-31** *And you, do not seek what you shall eat, or what you shall drink, and stop being in anxiety.*

*For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need these things.*

*But seek the kingdom of Elohim and all these things will be added to you.*

**Exodus 20:17** *You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is your neighbor's.*

If I only had lots of money! Who hasn't uttered those words? Who doesn't want to be rich? Think of all the good you could do with the money! What we could accomplish if we could only win the lottery or have that million dollar idea! Why doesn't Elohim grant me riches and limitless resources? After all, isn't it the Creator's will that I be wealthy?

This is all sounds too familiar to each of us. These thoughts are the symptoms of an illness that has infected modern society. It is a virus that attacks the rich and poor, secular and religious, and men and women equally. This sickness is called GREED and it is the root of many other mental illnesses and sins.

The reality is that an individual's or a nation's finances are in the hands of the Creator. Man may attempt to manipulate the hands of Heaven, but all is in the hands of the Almighty. The Scriptures say in **Tehillim 55:22**

- **Psalm 55:22 (55:23)** *Cast thy burden upon YHWH, and He will sustain thee; He will never suffer the righteous to be moved.*

This one verse is the key to financial success and prosperity. One must completely trust in YHWH and surrender to the will of Elohim. You may not be the next “*Who wants to Marry a Millionaire*”, but you will be blessed and can rest in the fact that all will be taken care of by the hand of Heaven.

The greatest hindrance to true prosperity is avarice (greed, materialism, covetousness). Mankind has always worshipped money as the g-d of choice. Mammon (Aramaic-*Mamona*) wealth is a false g-d that deceives people. One cannot serve the One True Elohim and serve Mammon. The word Mammon may come from the root that means “that in which one puts their trust.” Yahshua, the Messiah, regarded Mammon as an enslaving force that one can serve as a master over their whole life. Mammon then is a g-d that serves as a power in opposition to Elohim and can keep them from being devoted to Him and actually cause one to hate YHWH.

- ***Matt. 6:24*** *No one can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve Elohim and mammon.*

An individual’s self esteem, popularity, social standing, and personal value revolve around the size of one’s bank account and portfolio rather than the size of one’s heart and character. Craving more, getting it, and still wanting even more is a sin and a sickness that infects the soul.

- ***1Tim. 6:7-10*** *For we brought nothing into the world, and it is clear that we can carry nothing out. But having food and clothing, we will be content. But they who will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts which plunge men into destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all evils, of which some having lusted after, they were seduced from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Our present capitalistic, consumer based society says to us that the more we have the better we are. Status is defined by our clothing, car, house, clubs, and neighborhood. These are status symbols upon which one’s self esteem is built. They form the foundation of our lives and if taken from us (like Iyov/Job) we would be devastated and question our faith. However, as long as we hold onto these things, then we are open to spiritual attack from the adversary. Greed and the love of money create an opening in the soul/mind/psyche so wide that evil has no problem entering and causing problems.

The cure for this disease is to redefine what true wealth is. As long as one pursues wealth and more material goods, instead of seeking what one needs, then one never will acquire true wealth. A person who seeks only things will always be internally imbalanced and never find true happiness and contentment in life.

- “*Give me neither poverty nor riches, but feed me with my proper share*” **Proverbs 30:8**

Once we readjust our mindset, then we can turn to Elohim and ask for our needs to be met with purity of mind. The proper attitude is humility and to come to the realization that Heaven owes you nothing. We can throw ourselves on the mercy of the Heavenly Judge, acknowledging our short comings in humility. We cannot persuade YHWH to grant our desires and He does not have to explain to us why our prayers are not answered.. We should never be so arrogant to think that YHWH wants for us what we want for ourselves. This is a spiritual reality. Truth is truth and we cannot change it We can choose to live by it. If we choose to live by a lie, then chances are we will die by it as well. YHWH is looking for those who are humble, honest, and sincere. They simply ask for their needs and do not ask for great riches. Blessing from the hand of YHWH resides in the realization that money and possessions are not the sources of our fulfillment in life. The pursuit of wealth, power, and status are curses in themselves.

- **Heb. 13:5** *Set your way of life without money-loving, being satisfied with present things; for He has said, "Not at all will I leave you, not at all will I forsake you," never!* **Deut. 31:6**

One who looks to YHWH to provide their desires and gets angry with the Creator when this does not happen, such a person becomes a target for spiritual attack. The attack comes in the form of temptation to do evil. A temptation to steal or cheat in order to get what they desire. They are even willing to seek out another source of power that will promise to fulfill their desires for a certain price. They become seduced by the dark side and its lies. Desire leads to coveting which in turn can lead to stealing, murder, or blasphemy. One who covets will eventually question and even deny Elohim's sovereignty.

- **Col 3:5** *Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness (which is idolatry-avodah zarah),*

Covetousness is called idolatry because is similar to the worship of the golden calf by Yisrael. The sin of the golden calf was a very subtle mental shift of trusting in the unknown (YHWH) to the known, from the unfamiliar to the familiar, and from the insecurity of the abstract to the surety of the physical. Yisrael sought security in physical things rather complete trust in YHWH, and therefore did not obtain true security that they were seeking.

Money and physical things have become our security in this world. Each time we put our faith in something that we think will provide us security that is our personal golden calf. Our insecurity is a result of fear of the unknown and a lack of faith in YHWH. Fear is a faith-killer. Fear is what every curse is built upon. Fear can only be overcome by trusting faith in the Creator. The righteous shall live by their faith. What is faith? Faith is accepting the influence of the inner mind over the contradictory input coming from the outside world through the senses. We may not be able to change our external reality, but we can change how we perceive it and interact with it. Faith without action has no conduit through which to manifest.

- **1Tim. 6:17** *Charge the rich in this world that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living Elohim, He offering to us richly all things to enjoy,*

The pursuit of wealth attracts people to the occult and black arts. Rather than humble oneself before the Almighty and rely upon Heaven for sustenance, they want to control their lives and finances to become greater and more secure, even if they have to sell their soul in order to reach that goal. They are willing to do whatever it takes to reach the top and sometimes seek out evil forces to enable them to control the reigns of power. Total societies are built upon a ruling elite and the terrible burdens they place upon the backs of the people just to keep them in power and control of the wealth. Self-deception is powerful force that blinds one to the truth. Even the religious involve themselves in activities that take away the holiness from their souls, and they become willing agents of evil.

Evil beings seek opportunities to attach themselves to humans and feed off their soul energy. Greed creates an open door to these beings. Western society is built upon greed and it has led to wars, disintegration of families, poverty, hunger, and a complete breakdown of ethics and morals. Never underestimate the occult powers that govern our modern society and its pursuit of wealth through greed. If we trust in money then I cannot give it away because I am giving away my security. One cannot be generous and love money. Greed is a disease of fear. YHWH will never condone greed in any form. The great Torah sage Ben Zoma said:

- *“Who is truly wealthy? The one who is satisfied with his portion.” **Pirkei Avot 4:1***

That is the secret of true wealth. When we humble ourselves before YHWH and embrace His guiding Hand in all things, then you will discover the true happiness that comes through being rich. Trusting in YHWH for all one's financial needs is the key to financial success. We labor to accomplish all we can, and then Elohim will fulfill you with that which you cannot. He may not let you win the lottery or you may not become a millionaire, but if you look at what you have, rather than what you do not have, you will find that your needs have been fulfilled and you will be content.

This is protection from the evil eye also. Those who are greedy love to show off their wealth and possessions. They are proud of their greed and their accomplishments. There is nothing wrong with being rich, as long as one is responsible with their wealth. There is everything wrong with being greedy and showing it off as a status of wealth and power.

- **James 2:5 -9** *Listen, my beloved brothers, has not Elohim chosen the poor of this world rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He has promised to those who love Him? But you dishonored the poor one. Do not rich men oppress you and draw you before the judgment seats? Do they not blaspheme that worthy Name by which you are called? If you fulfill the royal Law according to the Scripture, "You*

*shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. But if you have respect to persons, you commit sin and are convicted by the Law as transgressors.*

True wealth comes from Heaven and Heaven alone. It may not be what you desire, but it will be what you need and what is best for you. Money is a poor substitute for true wealth and fulfillment. Success according to the world is full of compromise. We must not spend our whole life chasing something we never attain, at the expense of everything else. If we follow that path, then we will leave the world unfulfilled, empty, and sad. There is no security in the 1% physical realm. Our security does not reside in money. Only a return to the simple faith in YHWH can save us in these uncertain times. Anyone who keeps building their security and self worth based on the foundation of the things of this world is clearly under the influence of some kind of delusion. You cannot continue to serve mammon and serve YHWH at the same time.

**Luke 12:16-20-21** *And He spoke a parable to them, saying, A certain rich man produced well from the land. And he reasoned within himself, saying, What may I do, for I have nowhere I may gather my fruits? And he said, I will do this; I will tear down my barns and I will build larger; and I will gather there all my produce and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take rest, eat, drink, and be glad. But Elohim said to him, Fool! This night they demand your soul from you; and that which you prepared, to whom will it be? So is he treasuring up for himself, and not being rich toward Elohim.*