

FLEURIEU EDGE

A Devoted Heart

A successful Christian businessman shared his story with us at church. He was candid about his struggles with faith and abundant wealth. He declared, *"Wealth scares me!"*

He quoted Jesus' statement, *"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God"* (Luke 18:25). He cited Luke 16:19-32 about the rich man and Lazarus and how in this story it was the rich man who went to hell. The parable of the *"Rich Fool"* (Luke 12:16-21) disturbed him.

"But," the businessman stated, *"I've learned a lesson from Solomon's verdict on the abundance of wealth. It's all 'meaningless'"* (Ecclesiastes 2:11). He determined not to let wealth get in the way of his devotion to God. Rather, he wanted to serve God with his assets and help the needy.

Throughout the centuries, God has blessed some people materially. We read of Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 17:5, *"The Lord established the kingdom...so that he had great wealth and honor."* He did not become proud or bully others with his wealth. Instead, *"his heart was devoted to the ways of the Lord."* Also, *"he followed the ways of his father Asa and did not stray from them; he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord."*

The Lord is not against wealth for He has blessed some with it-but He's definitely against the unethical acquisition and wrong use of it. He is worthy of devotion from all His followers.

Lawrence Darmani

2 Chronicles 17:3-6 ³*The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the ways of his father David before him. He did not consult the Baals* ⁴*but sought the God of his father and followed his commands rather than the practices of Israel.* ⁵*The Lord established the kingdom under his control; and all Judah brought gifts to Jehoshaphat, so that he had great wealth and honor.* ⁶*His heart was devoted to the ways of the Lord; furthermore, he removed the high places and the Asherah poles from Judah. (NIV)*

"Doing Life Together"



Fleurieu Family Church

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