

LIFE LESSONS – Making It Live

Pastor David Welch | “Rich Christians” | Ephesians 1:1-14 | June 25th & 26th .2011

Princes or Paupers

How do you define Rich? Most people look around them checking their bank accounts and their material possessions and establishing their answer based off their personal wealth in the world. God looks at our personal wealth also. The difference is He doesn't look at what is on the outside to establish our wealth. **Discuss:** Christ looks at the way we as His children allow His holy light to shine through; not only in our lives but in the lives of others. As Christians we have limitless spiritual wealth and a plethora of resources at our fingertips. **Read: Ephesians 1-14.** When you begin to feel like a pauper, what would you do to turn to the resources of your Heavenly Father?

Heirlooms

What do you value most? Can you share something that you have been given so precious that you cherish? Perhaps it was a family heirloom; Grandma's pearl necklace or Granddad's 'ol stopwatch. Most of us cherish family heirlooms. Why do you think that is? What does it have to do with who we are or the person who gave it to us who loved us enough to entrust us with it. Did you know that there is another who has given us a gift like no other? His name is Jesus Christ. **Discuss** how we have been adopted into His family by the blood that was shed on Calvary's cross, predestined to be a child of God. God calls people into a relationship with Himself by offering them a *promised* relationship through *covenant*. **Read: Galatians 3:6.** Share how we can tell people to invite Jesus into their lives; or share the gospel with others and leave a gift behind to those they love.

Treasures

Where are you storing up your treasures? Jesus says where your treasure is, that is where your heart will be. (Matthew 6:21) What does your treasure chest look like? Is it full of bitterness, greed, selfishness, neglect, anger, or is rich in kindness, love, mercy, gentleness, understanding and patience? **Discuss** how these are the treasures that make you rich in spirit and rich in the Kingdom of Heaven. **Read: Matthew 6:19-21** Share how you might empty the chest of sorrow and spiritual poverty and claim you treasure chest filled with gems of goodness and spiritual wealth.

Forgiveness

Have you ever ask someone to forgive you for hurting them? Maybe it was a spouse, a child, a loved one? How did you feel when you knew you were the one who was wrong? Alone? Lost? A gnawing ache in your spirit? And after they forgave you, how did you feel? Were your spirits lifted because of the grace that was given? The same holds true for those who have accepted Christ into their lives. We are forgiven. We are rich in grace and forgiveness; wealthy because of His love and mercy. **Read: Ephesians 1:7.**

Sealed in Christ

What are you doing when you seal something? To seal something means to make an impression or to make binding. In accordance with Jesus Christ's sacrifice on Calvary, the seal stamped out the death of sin. The world is still full of sin, but because of Calvary's seal (the cross) we are able to come to Jesus and ask for forgiveness. Share how because of Christ sacrifice we are rich. His blood was the ultimate gift. We know the joy that gifts bring when given to others. Why do so many overlook joy beyond anything they have ever known by overlooking Jesus sacrifice? Why do they choose to stay poor in spirit when He is waiting for them to accept the gift of salvation? **Read and discuss how John 3:16** applies here.

Written by Misty Miller