

It's All About Me Deuteronomy 8

God laid out His commands for Israel as they entered the Promised Land in Deuteronomy 8 and gave instructions about what to remember as they grew richer. This passage helps us with **the moral questions concerning wealth.**

- **Instruction #1: PUT GOD FIRST AND TRUST HIM FOR THE WEALTH YOU NEED.**

Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers. ²Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ³He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. ⁵Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and revering him.
Deuteronomy 8:1-6 (New International Version)

God Teaches Two Lessons

- Your relationship with God is the most important thing in your life.
- You are completely dependent upon God who is faithful to provide for your needs.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?" Matthew 6:25 (NIV)

- **Instruction #2: DON'T FORGET GOD WHEN YOUR NEEDS ARE MET.**

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; ⁸a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; ⁹a

land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. ¹⁰When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Deuteronomy 8:7-11 (NIV)

Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God . . . James 1:17a (Good News Bible)

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress . . . James 1:27a (NIV)

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" . . . Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. Isaiah 58:6-7, 9a (NIV)

- **Instruction #3: REMEMBER THAT GOD IS THE GIVER OF ALL WE HAVE.**

Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. ¹⁶He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. ¹⁷You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.
Deuteronomy 8:12-18 (NIV)

- **Instruction #4: NEVER FOLLOW OTHER PRIORITIES IN PLACE OF GOD.**

If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. ²⁰Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 8:19-20 (NIV)