

## Proverbs Week #137 (13:7-8)

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*"There is one who pretends to be rich, but has nothing; another pretends to be poor, but has great wealth. The ransom of a man's life is his wealth, but the poor hears no rebuke." (Proverbs 13:7-8 NAS95)*

Wisdom teaches us not only of heavenly things but also of things relating to this world. We can be rich according to worldly standards and yet be poor according to God. How do we think about wealth and riches? After we read the Torah each week we hold it up and say "it is a tree of life to all who grasp it" and then "long life is at its right, at its left are riches and honor." What are riches? Are they good things or bad?

Yeshua often taught about money, riches, and counting the cost. Here is just a short list of the parables He taught relating to these subjects: The Two Debtors (Luke 7:41-43), Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), The Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21), The Wise and the Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-27), Parable of the Pearl (Matthew 13:45-46), The Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44), Counting the Cost (Luke 14:28-33), The Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:23-35), The Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-9), Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), The Unjust Steward (Luke 16:1-13), and Rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31).

In the following parable notice that being rich isn't bad, as long as you are "rich toward God." As you listen to the words of Yeshua in this parable, think about how the rich man allowed his wealth to change the way he thought about his success in farming and his need to work.

*"And He told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man was very productive. 'And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' 'Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.' "' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.' "' (Luke 12:16-21 NAS95)*

Paul taught very important ideas relating to the work each one of us has been given to do. Each one of us has been given "a load" that God expects us to carry. What is this load? How did I get it? What do I do with it? Let me combine two different scriptures to try to help you to understand what he taught.

*"Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of the Messiah. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. **For each one will bear his own load.**" (Galatians 6:1-5 NAS95)*

*"**But God, being rich in mercy**, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Messiah (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in the Messiah Yeshua, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in the Messiah Yeshua. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, **created in the Messiah Yeshua for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (Ephesians 2:4-10 NAS95)*

For sure, these verses have much to teach us. For my lesson today, I want to emphasize three things.

- 1) We have a load that only we can carry
- 2) We receive God's riches as a gift not as a payment for work we have done
- 3) In the Messiah Yeshua we are God's workmanship doing the work He prepares for us to do