

## **Chapter 21: The Parable of Gimme More**

### **Life Application Verses:**

**Proverbs 30: 7-9.** Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, That I not be full and deny *You* and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.

### **Gimme More**

There once was a man named Gimme More,  
He lived on the coast, on the Eastern Shore.  
He had a mansion, cars, money, and fame,  
'Gimme More' his motto, he'd say without shame.

I'll lie, I'll steal, I'll cheat no doubt,  
To get more stuff, Gimme More I shout.  
Never enough, is what I believe,  
If I were poor, oh Man, would I grieve.

Down the street, beggars with signs,  
Can't find work, Gimme More I whine.  
Who is God, I got life's best,  
Gimme More, I say, than all the rest.

One sad day Gimme More lost it all,  
Oh it was an awful hard fall.  
Gimme More then met a man of the Lord,  
Who gave him discernment, a two-edged sword.

It is written, He said, give me only my need,  
Lest I have much and forget You in greed.  
Gimme More listened and accepted The Christ,  
Now his motto is Gimme Life.

*Written by me and my Lord at 2:52am when sleep was elusive. My index-card-place-marker had been inserted in my Bible at Matthew, Chapter 13, and my index card had a note that I had written on Proverbs 30: 7-9. Dear God, make us wise to avoid the trap of Gimme More.*

**G**imme More. How many of us live like that? We might not have mansions, cars, riches, or fame, but our motto is 'gimme more.' I've heard it said so many times through the years in sermons that money is not the problem—it's the **love** of money

that is the problem. Have you ever daydreamed of what it would be like to win a multimillion dollar lottery? You could 'buy' your way to happiness, reward your friends and family with showers of gifts, and give a minimum of ~~20%~~ 10% to your church. I've thought about this myself in the following scenario (you know that I am being facetious at this point, right??? Right!):

I win \$210 Million. Okay, I'll give Frazer Methodist enough to pay all of their bills so that they will be debt free (that will be my tithe for life). I'll give myself, say...\$10 Million, my wife \$10 Million, my daughter and her husband...oh, why not, ... \$10 Million. Then we'll give our family members some other amounts as we give some of our fortune away to them and charity. What charities we'll decide as we go. We'll set aside some \$50 Million to live on and then the rest...well, we'll give some more to Frazer, Charities, and ... well, let's add more to our own spending amounts. Instead of just \$10 Million, let's each get \$21 Million. Now, what was left over so we can calculate this again!? Oh, new house, cars, Golf membership, let's revisit this total...

Okay, so it's a dream. The question is what kind of dream? Is it the sort of dream that you would like to have come true? What would you really do if it did (what would I)? Well, while I am *not* advocating poverty or riches, I *am* advocating following the request found in Proverbs 30: 7-9. The verses are a prayer to God for something that is very profound. It takes the form of what we might call a dichotomy: 1) Lord, please don't let me become rich because if this happens, I might say, "Who is the Lord?"; and, 2) Lord, please don't let me become poor because if this happens, I might "steal and profane the name of my God." In the middle is the crux of the prayer: "Keep deception and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion." Wow. What a prayer! Living it is the hard part.

At this writing, there has been so much discussion and blame about *The Great Recession*. Political parties blame each other, rhetoric abounds, and yet there are many in this nation who are looking for work and can't find it or find less work or different work than they are qualified for. This struggle in the United States impacts Christians, Jews, Muslims,

Hispanics, Whites, African Americans, and every individual living within the borders of the nation and its territories. In fact, financial need is no respecter of person: “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? (Matthew 5: 44-47.) The applicable point here is that the sun and rain falls on all of us—the good, the bad, the righteous, the unrighteous—and so do the ebbs and flow of financial and material need.

I admit before the Lord that I am not a financial expert. My dollars-and-cents IQ has a dash in front of the number—I think they call that dash a minus sign. I took economics in one of my graduate business courses once. It nearly drove me to truck driving school (I have the most profound respect for big-rig truckers; my dad drove one for 30 years and accumulated over 2 Million miles). Money is a strange critter: we need it because it is required, but oh Lord, it beats me down sometimes when I have to pay taxes at a rate beyond what I can save. I am for paying my fair share; but when Caesar takes to the point that I begin to see the dichotomy in Proverbs 30: 7-9 leaning towards the poverty side of the equation, I begin to pray to God for balance in my attitude towards money. I ***never*** want to ***love*** money; I only want the wisdom of God to have sufficiency to care for my family and pay my just debts—and help others.

There is an even larger issue here: are we Heavenly Minded with our finances and materials things so that ***whatever*** we have, we are doing Earthly Good with it? Let me give you a real-life and personal example. Years ago, after I left the Navy, I attended college on the GI Bill. I had earned two years of credit from the University of Maryland when I was stationed in Rota, Spain. My next duty station was Homestead, Florida (tough assignment, but you know what they say about somebody’s got to do it). I left the Navy on 19 June 1980, and enrolled at Georgia Southern University for the Fall Semester 1980. I intended to go as fast as I could to add to my two years at U of Maryland, so I didn’t work except in the Work Study program. My wife, who is my true God-given Soul-mate, worked while I attended classes, labs, and worked

part-time. We had a daughter who was 2 at the time and although we had accumulated very little debt, money was something we never had. We literally lived paycheck-to-paycheck.

We gave to our local church what we could; by the Grace of God we found a distant relative who allowed us to rent our house for \$100/month; and our car (anyone remember the Ford Pinto?) was paid for. My wife worked for a company in which we had health care—which was a blessing because our daughter had allergies and some other minor health problems. All-in-all, we lived below the poverty level of existence. If we had an unexpected bill or someone needed something above our budget, we only had Prayer to get us through. We literally lived Proverbs 30: 7-9 for the three years I was finishing up the undergraduate degree (I changed majors once and only once, from Business to Electrical Engineering). During one Christmas, we were unable to buy Christmas gifts, less the *absolute bare minimum*. In fact, we could not even afford to buy the ornaments for a Christmas tree. We came home one evening to find a real 5 foot Cedar tree with a full set of decorations at our front door (I still cry when I think of this as I am doing at this writing). God had not forgotten us and our daughter loved the tree and the decorations. As of this moment in time, we do not know who provided this wonderful gift, but God was the originator and He used His servants to provide for us. He literally fulfilled Proverbs 30: 7-9 in our lives. He “feed us with the food that was our portion.” Our God “gave us neither poverty nor riches”, but He took care of us. We had nothing but our love for each other and our baby daughter and the offer of Prayers to our God (in Grace, our family helped also).

How many people today live in those situations? They can’t afford more than the *absolute bare minimum* to live. They have a Faith in God, the love of family, and yet they survive. Would they like to have a little more? You bet. Is this out of greed? Spend time with these God-fearing families and you will learn the truth of what it means to want a bit more without greed driving their sincere—and often—desperate—need. They understand what it means to also live Proverbs 30: 7-9 as my wife and I did during those years in college. We didn’t say as a matter of greed, Gimme More; we asked God to give us more as He saw fit, to help us make a bit more in salary or part-time to pay our debts, care for our daughter, and help others as best we could. Greed and/or envy were not the source of our existence. We were living a Heavenly Minded existence so that we might do Earthly Good with what we had from God.

Do I have answers as to why people in our nation (and globally) experience dire poverty? No. I must acquiesce to God on this issue. Conversely, do I know why some people have such material wealth that it stuns the imagination? No, again, I submit this to God. What I know is that my wife and I have worked hard all our lives, to include a doctorate, professional development, and some long hours working to improve our lives. Was it from greed? No, it was to be able to care for our family and have enough over to save a little for emergencies and leave a modicum amount for my daughter, granddaughter, and grandson. In essence, we have always lived by what God gave us in His word: “Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, That I not be full and deny *You* and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.”

Let me also add something to this discussion. There is much about the world that I don't understand because it is overwhelming to me. You might think that someone with a PhD/EdD would be able to rationalize and synthesize and statistically bring to understanding what goes on in the world. Nah! I am involved in local issues, family, Church, and so forth; I trust God to handle the things I don't understand globally or locally. I pray for those things that He wants to involve me in and I go and do as I feel led by the Holy Spirit. Included in this discussion about poverty and riches is ‘all the hubbub about redistribution of wealth.’ I have opinions about the issue, but until God directs me to voice that opinion or run for political office, I leave that issue and its outcome to Him. You may have very strong opinions and that is your privilege as God has provided in a free nation. I would hope and Pray that those who have more than they need voluntarily give generously to those in need out of a giving heart—what I would attribute to Proverbs 30: 7-9 to drive compassion and provision to those less fortunate. Giving has many forms to help others, btw! Therein endeth my opinion...at least for now!

I don't know the situation of the person reading this chapter, but I do know that God takes care of us in ways that we don't understand. My Heavenly Minded belief is that God takes care of us in His time and with His resources, just as He did when He brought the Israelites out of Egypt. It is our responsibility to be Earthly Good with whatever we have been given, and that we should always seek His guidance as to what to do to have more from His riches and in

His wisdom for our lives. My knowledge of poverty and riches extends to say that these things are within the purview of God's Grace and Mercy. If you are experiencing difficult financial times, I will Pray that God will direct you to the way out by providing for your needs. If you are a person of abundant means, find those in need and give abundantly as you have been given. Pray Proverbs 30: 7-9 before the Throne of Mercy and Grace. Pray with a heavy heart that He will guide you to improved finances, not out of greed but solely out of need to be able to care for family and to pay your debts, with sufficiency left over. Be reminded of The Parable of Gimme More. Maybe God brought him low so that Mr. More would find Jesus and in so doing, find Eternal Life—and a Giving Spirit:

It is written, He said, give me only my need,  
Lest I have much and forget You in greed.  
Gimme More listened and accepted The Christ,  
Now his motto is Gimme Life.

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Gimme More was blessed to riches again,  
But now he gives, in Honor of Him.  
He walks the streets to help the poor,  
For Gimme More seeks no longer the more.

His riches now matter less than Life,  
He now helps those who live in strife.  
Gimme More gives from his heart in love,  
For Jesus gave him *His* Love from above.

One day Gimme More learned he would die,  
A disease in his body, soon he would lie.  
For laid to rest in his burial grave,  
Gimme More smiled, for soon he gave.

His fortune to others, he smiled with glee,  
For Jesus had saved him, he was Eternally free.  
No longer the fortune he trusted in vain,  
For Heaven his home, in Jesus he gained.

The moral of the story of Gimme More,  
Not riches, nor poverty, bent knees on the floor.  
Oh Lord, Gimme Me what I need for life,  
To serve You, O God, lest I find strife.

### A Question of Curiosity:

When we stand before God, will we have pockets full of materials that we might have used to help others? How much is enough or how little is not sufficient? Seek God in these matters to guide you to action, whether the need is getting out of poverty or utilizing your riches for His Glory. Don't stand before Christ with pockets running over. Give as He would give.

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**“If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life.” ~ Billy Graham ~**

“If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness.” ~ 1 Timothy 6:4-11 ~

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### My Prayer For You:

Our Father in Heaven, You are the One True God. You are the Creator of all Things. You are the Maker of Life. I pray that if anyone today is in need of Your help in their finances or material necessities, and they are reading this Prayer, I beseech You to Honor their needs by guiding them to the path that You have set for them. I am but a servant in this life and my understanding is limited, but You know the need of each and every one of us. In the times that we live, life is a hard thing for so many people and families. For those of us who Believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died for our sin, was raised from the dead, and who sits at the Right Hand of the Father, we need You; we depend on You; and without You, Our God, we are but dust blowing in the wind even before we are called out of this world. Grant us even the very words to Pray to seek your Face so that we may know You and receive Your help in our very real and present needs. We call upon You, O Lord, hear our prayers and help us. It is not from greed that we seek Your help in our financial or material problems; it is from understanding that You are our Provider in this life. I pray, God, that for those who are in need, that You will be their Rock of Strength and Support; for those you have Blessed, move them in Your Will to help those in need as You desire in Your Will for our lives. In the name of Christ, the Risen Son of the Living God, I plead for those who are in need. Amen.

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**In God We Trust**  
It's not the money that is the problem; it's our desire to place it above God, to seek it above all else. While we need it to live, prioritize our need for money in the Will of God and then we must do our part. Like, get an education, seek gainful employment, and work hard. Give God the glory and I believe He will bless you in your need, whether financial, Spiritual, or physical. Be cognizant of the Truth:  
**In God We Trust.**

**In GOD We Trust**

