

THE DANGERS OF PROSPERITY

(KING SOLOMON)

**1 Kings 3:5–15; 10:23–25;
11:1–13**

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **Matthew 6:21**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

The Forbes list for the 2006 “Top Ten Richest People in the World” is out. Not surprising, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett Rank one and two on the list. Bill Gates’ total net worth is set at \$50 billion. His fortune is noted to be “self-made,” as he was a Harvard University dropout, and the builder of the Microsoft Corporation from the ground up. Who needs Harvard? Through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates is known to be a very generous person, funding research for infectious diseases, such as AIDS, Hepatitis B, and others. He also gives to improve education.

The rich typically get a bad wrap, often accused of being totally self-centered and selfish with their wealth. Not all of the rich are bad people. Solomon was not known to be a bad person. Read the verses from 1 Kings, listed above.

Solomon was given great wealth and wisdom from God. Although he noted the source of his wisdom and wealth, Solomon made some significant mistakes. He loved women (particularly of foreign lineage). Solomon’s wealth enabled him to do many good things, such as erecting a beautiful Temple for the worship of God. However, his wealth also gave way to the introduction of foreign women who became his wives, leading Solomon and his nation further and further from God.

Your teenagers’ friends have as much influence on them as anyone in their world (except you). Do your teenagers’ friends draw them closer to God? Or turn them away? Is your teen a positive, X-ian example to his or her friends?

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

Does your family operate using a budget? If so, take a copy of that budget and share it with family members. Have a family member share how money is distributed to pay bills, to provide for family needs, and to give to your church and/or other ministries. Then, explain what you do with anything that is left over.

Explore . . .

Family members share in the reading of 1 Kings 3:5–15; 10:23–25; 11:1–13. Family members briefly discuss how Solomon expressed wisdom in the way he lived, ruled, and managed his wealth. Second, ask: **What was Solomon’s failure that sent him spiraling out of control? How might his wealth have been misused? What was the root problem?** Suggest that at some point Solomon felt self-sufficient between the wealth and wisdom he possessed. He failed to acknowledge God as the source of every good thing he had been provided. This disrupted his relationship and his obedience to God.

Transform . . .

A family member reads: **You may or may not have much in the way of financial resources. But how do you use what has been given to you by God? Do you approach Him for wisdom on how to use His resources? Do you seek to obey God as a family? Do you acknowledge God to be the provider of all good things in the life of your family?** Spend some time thanking God for what you have from Him. Ask Him for wisdom as a family in how you use the resources He has given to you.

Pray that you will walk in obedience together as a family, seeking God’s wisdom and His resources, acknowledging Him as the sole provider of every good thing you have received.