

Riches

Biblical Material: Proverbs 28.6; Matthew 6. 19-21

‘Better to be poor and honest than rich and dishonest.’

‘Don’t spend all your time storing up riches on earth. Such riches can be eaten by moths, destroyed by rust or stolen by robbers. Store up riches in heaven instead, where there are no moths, rust or robbers. Where your riches are, there will your heart be.’

You will need:

- Some clothes - fashionable.
- Some money.
- Toy car.

Introduction

If you have time you can arrange a ‘clothes show.’ This can be done with the pupils as commentators on clothes which can be held up by other pupils. Teacher’s can bring in some items of clothes. Explain that some people put all their efforts into making money, then spend it on expensive clothes and expensive cars. The Bible is not against wealth. Wealth used rightly can make a tremendous difference to people’s lives. That is why the Bible emphasises giving. The Bible has two principles concerning wealth:

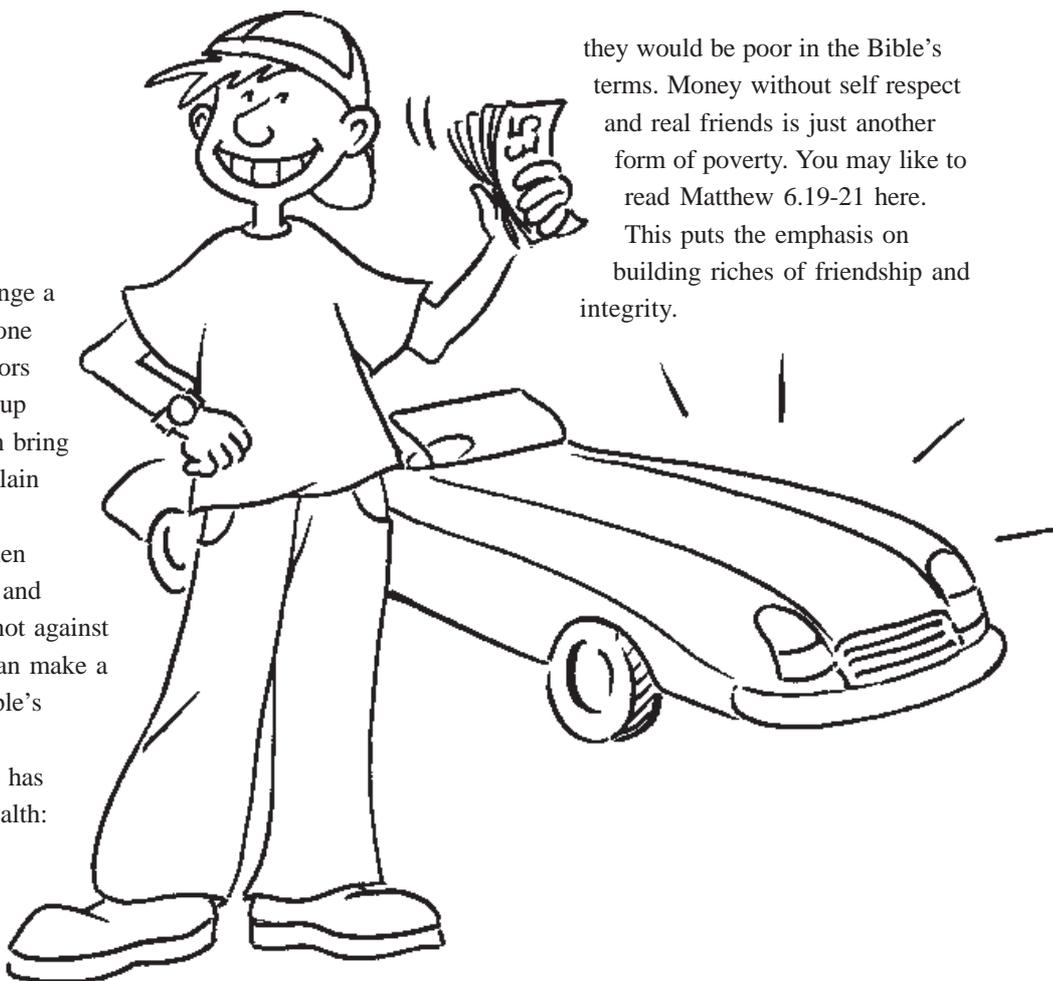
- 1) it must be gained honestly.
- 2) it must be shared.

Some people, once they have gained wealth, spend all their time and energy keeping it. Talk with the pupils about storing money, clothes and cars and what happens to them (go out of date, rust, get stolen).

Core Material

Read the Biblical Material. Riches in the Bible are always seen as coming in two forms: there are riches made up of money and objects (clothes, cars etc.) Show some of the things you have brought in. There are also invisible riches made up of things such as friendships, personal qualities (honesty etc), and a relationship with God. If a person has the first type but not the second,

they would be poor in the Bible’s terms. Money without self respect and real friends is just another form of poverty. You may like to read Matthew 6.19-21 here. This puts the emphasis on building riches of friendship and integrity.



Prayer/Reflection

Listen to a suitable extract of a song about money such as ‘Money Money Money’ by ABBA.

When people try to tell us that money is all that counts, help us, Father, to count our wealth in friends, goodness and friendship with you. Give us the wisdom to value honesty and love as a great treasure.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.