



Links Players

A Player's Journey - Nameless

Blessed are those who are generous. (Proverbs 11:25)

This devotional follows a wonderful message last week from Beth Ann Nichols titled "Money Talks"!

"How much is enough?"

Like Beth Ann, I will avoid specific discussions of this new golf tour. But the Bible certainly has a lot to say about money. I would add another question to the subject, "How much should I give?"

I have a better question: "How much should I keep?"

My new golfer's novel, Player's Progress, includes 18 holes about the major themes of Proverbs at our mythical golf course in the Orkney Islands.

The 13th hole is MONEY. The Bible has a lot to say on the subject. The chapter includes several characters whose names tell you everything about who they really are.

W.D. Deadend is filthy rich but does everything wrong. A depressed Judson Judas is hanging from a tree after losing his wealth in a stock market crash. Forecaddies Richie Rich and Poorest O'Poore are both in love with money.

Greedy Green caddies for a rich young man. What was his name? The Widow Mite explains in the book:

"We just call him Nameless. Odd, I know, but how sad his case truly is. His story is told in the Bible (Mark 10:17-31). He had an offer from Jesus to be one of His twelve disciples, and to have treasures in heaven, but he turned it down. He was too busy. Too proud. Too addicted to his stuff. Too much in love with himself."

She then recites a 'poem' from *Streams in the Desert*, a wonderful daily devotional. Lettie Cowman wrote:

*We are not told his name—this "rich young ruler", Who sought the Lord that day.
We only know that he had great possessions, and that he went away.
He went away; he kept his earthly treasure, But oh, at what a cost!
Afraid to take the cross and lose his riches— And God and Heaven were lost.
So, for the tinsel bonds that held and drew him, what honor he let slip—*

*Comrade of John and Paul and friend of Jesus— What glorious fellowship!
For they who left their all to follow Jesus, have found a deathless fame,
On his immortal scroll of saints and martyrs, God wrote each shining name.
We should have read his name there—the rich young ruler— If he had stayed that day.*

*Nameless—though Jesus loved him—ever nameless
Because—he went away.*

So..... too busy. Too proud. Too addicted to his stuff. Too much in love with himself.

"How much should we keep?"

Prayer: Jesus, open my eyes to see your inestimable value that I might see my earthly wealth in perspective.

READING - Proverbs 3: 9; Proverbs 10: 2-5; Mark 10: 17-22.

OPENING QUESTIONS: Playing golf is an expensive sport. What is the most you've ever paid for equipment? What is the highest green fee you've ever paid?

1. In Proverbs 3:9 the writer ties our attitude toward God to our wealth. How do we "honor" God?

2. In Proverbs 10: 2-5, we learn numerous truths about our relationship to wealth. List and discuss them.

3. Does Jesus teach us in Mark 10:17-22 that one can inherit eternal life by keeping the commandments? If not, then what is Jesus doing in this encounter with the nameless young man?
