

November 2017

Dear Links Player,

I've been reading about rich people lately. Maybe you are one. I am.

My reading has not been in Forbes magazine or Architectural Digest. I haven't been made privy to storyboards for upcoming episodes of Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous. Honestly, I've simply been reading my Bible.

I could have sought out the topic of wealth in my concordance. I would have known then that the rich come up often in Scripture. But as it happens, I am nearing the end of my through-the-Bible plan for the year, and I've come in recent days to 1 Timothy and James. In addition, I'm nearing the end of a long journey through a devotional through the book of Job, a man who knew greatest wealth and harshest poverty.

The words of the Lord to the rich through the writers of the Bible are no spa treatment at the end of a long work week. Rather, they are warnings and charges. Wealth is fleeting. Money is the root of much evil. The gains of the rich will die with them. And so, the rich—you and me—are told to be generous and ever mindful of the poor.

How rich is rich enough to heed these warnings and obey these commands? Rich enough to know each day where you will eat. Rich enough to lie down on a mattress that supports you under a roof that won't leak. Rich enough to put gas in the car and drive to the golf course. Not exceedingly, but richer than nine out of every ten people in the world. So I'm rich enough. And in Christ, I'm richer still. So are you.

As October closed, I signed a check from Links Players to the Orange County Rescue Mission in Southern California. It was for a bit more than \$46,000.

Several years ago, Dereck Wong, our regional director in Southern California decided to go big in regards to our "K": Kindle compassion for the poor and needy. He started a golf tournament to benefit an organization that works among the underprivileged in Orange County, which otherwise is one of America's wealthiest spots. The Rescue Mission has been the beneficiary of that tournament for the last two years. And more than the money the tournament raised for the Mission, an "auction" after the tournament raised tens of thousands more for the holiday meals that the Mission will serve this year. It's a joy to watch!

We've moved into November. Thanksgiving is upon us; Christmas is nearing. In God's book, every season is the season for the rich to be generous. But if this letter stirs you to do a little more this time of year, then we will be blessed even if we never hear the story.


Jeff Hopper, COO

LINKS PLAYERS INTERNATIONAL

755 N. PEACH AVENUE, SUITE E11, CLOVIS CA 93611 • 800-90-LINKS • WWW.LINKSPLAYERS.COM

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