

Hearts Large and Small

Proverbs 11:24-26

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Solomon, the wise man of old, wrote of hearts that were large with generosity and those which were not. At God's direction, he penned in Proverbs 11:24-26:

There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more,
And there is one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want.
The generous man will be prosperous,
And he who waters will himself be watered.
He who withholds grain, the people will curse him,
But blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.

Wise expenditure of money is a form of investment; it returns with dividends. And there is no wiser investment than that which is prompted by a generous and benevolent heart. Do you remember what the apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:6? Listen: "...he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully." In verse 10 he continues, "Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality..." In the entire Bible, there is hardly a more powerful promise for this life.

The Lord is pleased by those whose hearts swell with generosity; the one who freely waters will be watered. By contrast, the one who is stingy and miserly, withholding what is really due to be paid, will end up in want, his prosperity being choked off by his own greed. And, then there is the one who hoards his goods until scarcity drives the price up. He will be the object of cursing by the ones from whose misfortune he hopes to profit. The Lord does not look with benevolence on him, but blesses those who do not scheme for profit by taking advantage of the plight of others.

It is a wonderful thing to be big hearted and generous, to never be guilty of having a "little," stingy heart of greed.