

Money Wi\$e

Saving (Proverbs 13:11-23) Pastor Tim Peck Money Wise pt. 3

THE BIG IDEA

Although saving money is difficult because it requires delayed gratification, saving is wise because it is a form of investment, it blesses other people, and it prepares us for unexpected circumstances.

OPENING

- Did you have a savings account growing up? How did money get in it?
- When's the last time you had to delay fulfilling a want? What was that like for you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30. According to Bible scholar Craig Blomberg, "*The master stands for God, and the servants for various kinds of people.*"¹ Who is commended and who is criticized in this story? Why? What does the master say the third servant should've done with his amount of money in v. 27? What does this tell you about saving money?
- Read Genesis 41:39-46. How does saving for the future help Egypt here? Why was this wise?
- Read Proverbs 13:11. According to Paul Koptak, "*A translation difficulty lies in the word hebel (NIV 'dishonest'; lit., 'breath, breeze,' Isa. 57:13), a word used in Ecclesiastes to signify what is both ephemeral and elusive (e.g., Eccl. 1:2-3). Thus, the first line can read 'meaningless wealth,' echoing that use, but some would read 'wealth from haste.' The contrast with the second line suggests that it is wealth*

¹Craig Blomberg, *Interpreting the Parables* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1990), p. 216.

*gained from nothing, that is, from no labor.*² What are some examples of “meaningless wealth”?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- What’s your current practice in regard to saving?
- What are some things that make it easier for you to save money? Share these tips with your group.

PRAYER REQUESTS

²Paul Koptak, *Proverbs, NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003), p. 357.