

WEEK THREE



PROVERBS

WISDOM FOR TODAY

BEWARE THE BOUNTY

JUNE 21, 2026

PROVERBS 18:10-11
PASTOR MATT LAVALLIERE

SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

I. THE DANGER OF THE DESERT AND THE BOUNTY

- A. The Wilderness Test: The desert was a test of hunger and dependence; the Promised Land is a test of fullness, abundance, and prosperity.
- B. The Threat of Abundance: Our overstuffed closets, full cupboards, and bank accounts act as a spiritual anesthetic, making us numb to our daily need for God.
- C. The Sin of Amnesia: Forgetting God is an active act of disobedience that starts with pride and terminates in total self-reliance.

II. THE TWO FORTRESSES (PROVERBS 18:10-11)

- A. The Fortress of Reality (**Proverbs 18:10**): The "Name of the Lord" is His total power, holiness, and character. The righteous man acts by running out of his own self-sufficiency into this objective, eternal shelter.
- B. The Fortress of Illusion (**Proverbs 18:11**): The rich man views his wealth as a fortified city and a high wall. It makes massive promises of protection, but it exists solely in his imagination.
- C. The Redefinition of Safety: Real safety is not insulation from earthly trouble, sickness, or death; it is eternal and final security from the wrath of God.

III. THE SEDUCTION OF THE SHORTCUT (PROVERBS 13:11)

- A. The Call of Folly: Folly calls out to young people through gambling, prediction markets (like Kalshi), and digital "get-rich-quick" hooks to bypass honest work.
- B. The Consequence of Haste: Wealth gained overnight vanishes because it bypasses the character-developing traits of patience, endurance, and daily trust.
- C. The Master's Money: God owns 100% of the currency. Earthly money is the "very little" thing used as a diagnostic test to see if you can be trusted with the true riches of the New Jerusalem.

PROVERBS 18:10–11

The name of the Lord is a strong tower;

the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

¹¹ A rich man's wealth is his strong city,

and like a high wall in his imagination.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. Moses warns in Deuteronomy 8:17 that abundance tempts us to say, "My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth." In what specific areas of your life (career, finances, family stability) do you find it easiest to rewrite the story and take the credit instead of recognizing God's hand?
2. Look closely at Proverbs 18:11. A rich man's wealth functions as a high wall in his imagination. What are the specific "imaginary walls" you tend to build with your money or comfort to make yourself feel safe from the unpredictable realities of life?
3. Jesus notes in Luke 16:10 that money is a "very little" thing compared to true spiritual riches. If God is using your current financial management, generosity, or debt as a diagnostic test for eternal trust, what does your checkbook currently reveal about your readiness for kingdom responsibility?

STUDENTS

4. The sermon mentioned online pitches like the "Laptop Lifestyle," crypto loops, and platforms like Kalshi that tempt people to get rich fast without working. Why do you think our culture, especially for young men, is so obsessed with hitting it big overnight instead of working slow and steady?
5. If your Enemy wanted to destroy your faith, he might actually want you to win big or make a million dollars instantly, so you feel like you don't need God for anything. How does having "everything you want" right now make you blind to your daily, moment-by-moment need for Christ?
6. Proverbs 18:10 says the righteous man runs into the Name of the Lord. When you are stressed out, anxious about your future, or feeling insecure, what is the first "fortress" you run to for comfort or escape (social media, video games, money, popularity)?

KIDS

7. Think about your closet or your toy box at home. When we have lots of clothes, toys, and video games, why is it so easy to forget to thank God for giving them to us?
8. Imagine building a fort out of cardboard boxes. It might look super cool and strong, but what happens if a huge storm or giant wave hits it? How is trusting in money just like building a cardboard fort instead of a real brick tower?
9. What is one practical way you can show God this week that you know your things belong to Him? (Hint: Sharing a toy, giving to the church, or saying a specific thank-you prayer).