You don't manage people, you manage things. You lead people.

--Grace Hopper

Text: Ephesians 4:12; 2 Corinthians 5:15-20; John 4:35-41; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8; Acts 14:27.

What would you do if you suddenly were given $1 million dollars? How would you spend the money? How would it change your life? Would it change your relationship with God? Last week in Maryland three people won the lottery and are walking home with $35 million each.

“Maryland Lottery officials announced Tuesday that the record-breaking Mega Millions winning ticket purchased at a 7-Eleven in the Baltimore area was actually purchased by three people, all of whom have chosen to remain anonymous. The three friends -- a woman in her 20s, a woman in her 50s and a man in his 40s -- work in Maryland’s public education system. One of the winners is an elementary school teacher, one works in special education and the third is an administrative assistant, NBC News reported, but they all work other jobs as well.”

Life will be anything but normal for these three friends. Lottery winners have been studied over the years and the impact of receiving large amounts of money has not always been pretty. The plans for these ‘amigos’ is admirable.

‘Lottery officials said that all three will return to work this week, out of ‘a strong commitment to their students’. According to NBC Washington, the winners plan to buy homes and invest their winnings. They have also already met with a financial adviser -- an important step, given a recent Vanderbilt University study reporting that big lottery winners are more likely to go bankrupt. In the short run, two winners will take separate European vacations and a third will use some of the money for his daughter’s education.’

If you suddenly received $35 million dollars, how would it impact your life? Would you continue to go to work each day? Would you continue to attend church each week? This week’s Sabbath school lesson reminds us that in the body of Christ ever member is a minister. Each of us has an important role to play in our local churches. Whether we are a “hand” or a “foot”, whether we are “wealthy” or “poor”, God says each of us fills a critical role in making up the body of Christ. When we are gifted with the riches of this world, it is easy to forget to lay up our treasures in heaven.

Special gifts have been given to each one of us. Let’s never let these talents, abilities, or resources pull us away from our primary work—to be servants of Christ. There’s no greater reward that giving our best to the Lord.

~cr

1. US News
2. Huffington Post
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