

## WHAT MAKES ONE PERSON POOR AND ANOTHER RICH?

Supposing we become poor, can we blame anyone for it? Can we blame the government for not creating enough opportunities for everybody? Can we blame our parents for not sending us to a better school? Or, should we blame God instead, for bringing us into this world with very little?

Do you know that many of the truly rich people in the world were once poor? Henry Sy, John Gokongwei, Jack Ma, Steve Jobs, just to name a few. What do they have that most of us do not? Why did they not remain poor, while many others have surrendered to a state of poverty?

I do not know these people very well. While I have read bits and pieces about their lives, I do not know what makes them special. But for a long time I have been asking the Lord, "Why is one man poor and another man rich?" Is it because of the education they've gained, the money they have, or the environment they grew up in? But some of the people I mentioned above did not have these. So what makes one man poor and another man rich?

Some verses from the book of Proverbs say that the diligent will rule and the hard worker will become rich, but the one who is negligent and lazy will remain poor (see Proverbs 10:4, 12:24). On the other hand, Proverbs 22:2 (NASB) says, "The rich and the poor have a common bond, the Lord is the maker of them all." So did God favor one over the other? I believe not, because Deuteronomy 8:18 is saying that in general, it is God who gives the power to make wealth. The one who uses and develops this power will never become poor, but the one who does not will never become rich.

Supposing we become poor, can we blame anyone for it? If you ask me, I will say no. Whatever situation we may be in today is the result of the choices we continue to make. As the Filipino saying goes, "Walang tamad na mayaman. Walang masipag na mahirap." God gave us the power to create the wealth we want to have, but at the same time, He gave us the free will to decide who we want to be.