

March, 2008

Are you Rich?

The Episcopal priest Loren Mead, when traveling across America to tease people into talking about money, would begin the conversation with this question: "Are you rich?" Mead says that instantly he could feel the prickles darting the room. After a moment of silence he would ask the question a second time, as a slow collective murmur began to circle the room. Finally someone would blurt out, "Compared to what?" (Financial Meltdown in the Mainline, pp. 112-114)

I am convinced that it is only as we are able to think globally about money and possessions that we will be able to faithfully act locally as the stewards God has called us to be.

Rob Bell, the pastor of a megachurch in Grand Rapids produces and nararates series of excellent videos specifically directed at an x-generation audience on a variety of topics including money and possessions. The one titled Rich, is about the American Christian's relationship to his/her money and possessions and the rest of the world. I just saw another one over the weekend called "Sunday" that was very good on the idea of giving from a "cheerful" versus an "obilgatory" motivation. They are only about \$10 each but I think there is a special deal on the whole set. You can find them at www.Nooma.com.

To begin to get a global perspective on your own wealth, log on to www.globalrichlist.com and find out how your income compares with others in the world. I think you will be surprised and I hope motivated to make some changes in your lifestyle.