

What to do with your wealth?

Hi everyone, this is Nancy. Today is Feb. 12th, 2022. How are you doing? Today, I would like to share with you the Buddha's words about wealth, how to spend your wealth.

One day, King of Prasenajit came to Jeta Grove to see the Buddha. He paid homage to the Buddha and then he sat aside. He said to the Buddha, "Venerable Buddha, there is one thing that I cannot understand, and would like to hear your words. In the city, there is an affluent elder. He has countless gold, not to mention other properties. They fill all the small and big warehouses. What puzzles me is that although he is so rich, he is only willing to eat coarsely shredded rice, bean soup made from ground broken beans, rotten ginger as seasoning, clothes made of coarse cloth, thin boots made of single-layer leather. He is even reluctant to buy a hat and uses leaves as hats. During these years that he stays in this city, I have never heard that he has ever offered anything to the ascetics or Brahmin practitioners, let alone those poor people. At mealtime, their family would close their door tight afraid that people would come to their home for alms. Venerable Buddha, why is this man so rich while so strict to himself, his family and all other people?"

The Buddha compassionately told King of Prasenajit, "My lord, he is not a wise man of right conduct. He has a lot of money in his family, but he is not willing to spend it on himself. He does not know how to use the money to serve and support his parents, let alone to provide for his wife, children, and relatives. He does not know to give offerings to ascetics and Brahmin practitioners so as to obtain the blessing of being reborn in the heaven. He gave up the chances to plant in the extraordinary blessing fields. The most pity thing for him is that he has so much money, but he does not know how to use it for greater good. Your Majesty, this is like gathering of a large pool of clean water in the wilderness while no one goes to drink, bathe, or irrigate plants, so that the clear and translucent clean water disappears in vain under the sun. Those who have great wealth, but do not know how to make good use of it for greater blessings, are like this pool of water dried up in the sun, and can only wait helplessly for the blessings to be exhausted. The wise will not act this way.

A wise person, if he has obtained great wealth, he will use his wealth reasonably, in addition to nourishing his body, he will also use the wealth to support his parents, so that their lives will be more prosperous, and also will give money to wives, children, relatives, care for the servants, donate to good teachers, and make offerings to ascetics and Brahmin practitioners from time to time, so as to plant a field of extraordinary blessings and obtain the fruit of future birth.

A wise person can make good use of money, so that more people can benefit, and he can also get more extraordinary results.

Your Majesty, it's like having a pool of water near villages and cities, clean and clear, surrounded by trees, making people happy to get close. People can benefit from it, they can drink from it, use it for irrigation or bathing, and even animals and plants can benefit from the pool of water.

A wise person who has obtained huge wealth, just like the pond of water near the village and the city, not only can he use it happily, but also can support his parents, and even the sentient beings around him can benefit.

Just as vast wealth is obtained by a person without wisdom, he can neither enjoy it himself nor use it to pamper others. He treats himself harshly. He blindly pursues wealth, but eventually all the wealth will dissipate.

If a wise person has obtained vast wealth, he will use it reasonably, and he will also give it widely for merit, and his relatives will all benefit from it.

Just like a Bull King leading his followers, every time when there is an extremely rich aquatic plant, everyone enjoys it together.

A wise person will distribute money rationally, give generously, and use it appropriately for himself, doing what he should do, and stopping where he should.

He will continue to practice this practice until the end of his life, and because of the merits of planting vast fields of blessing, he will be able to ascend to heaven to receive extraordinary and wonderful bliss.

After listening to the Buddha's teachings, King of Prasenajit was overjoyed. After bowing to the Buddha, he left happily.

Amitabha! This is today's dharma share. Life is a continuously flowing river. It's good to plant blessing seeds along the way. Thank you everyone for being here. I will see you next time. Bye.