

## Is That Really Necessary?

A woman's husband dies. He had \$20,000 to his name. After everything is done at the funeral home and cemetery, she tells her closest friend that there is no money left.

The friend says, "How can that be? You told me he had \$20,000 a few days before he died. How could you be broke?"

The widow says, "Well, the funeral cost me \$6,500. And of course, I had to make the obligatory donation for the church and the organist and all. That was \$500, and I spent another \$500 for the wake, food and drinks, you know. The rest went for the memorial stone."

The friend says, "\$12,500 for the memorial stone? My stars, how big was it?"

The widow says, "Three carats!"

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The story of the prodigal (wasteful) son reminds us that sometimes we don't use what God gives us the way God wants us to use it. Therefore the word "wasteful" is in that illustration. Certainly, most of the time, most of us are responsible with what we have. We pay our bills. We provide for our children. We eat. We have to take care of our yards. Sometimes we even take time for a little recreation. The list goes on and on!

When do we cross the line and what we do becomes excessive? If we have the money, does it really matter? If we have the time, what difference does it make?

Another question might answer that one, where is our train of thought, our line of sight, or our focus? If our thoughts are on those things, which are above, [Colossians 3:1-2](#), we have nothing to worry about!

Here's another one: [Matthew 16:26](#) For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Love to all,  
Andy