

A SURE INVESTMENT

Have you ever reached into your pocket to discover that a 10- or 20-dollar bill was missing? It's a frustrating feeling.

Now imagine losing \$30 billion in just a few short months. That's the story of Brazilian oil mogul Eike Batista, and it's being called the greatest single loss of wealth in world history.

In 2011, Batista was listed by *Forbes* magazine as the 8th richest person in the world, and the richest in South America. His wealth at one time was estimated at \$30 billion. By July 2013, his wealth had plummeted to \$200 million due to his debts and company's falling stock prices. *Bloomberg* reported in January 2014 that Batista "has a negative net worth."



No longer on track to become the wealthiest man in the world, Batista found himself relatively broke. No matter how much money a man has, it can never bring real security.

Most of the people Jesus ministered to were very poor. They struggled to put food on the table and sandals on their feet. Life in first-century Israel was much harder than it is for most of us today. Yet Jesus warned: "Watch out and be on guard against all greed because one's life is not in the abundance of his possessions" (Luke 12:15).

Our lives are to be about something more than the accumulation of money and possessions. When we come to know Christ, we become God's children – and God promises to take care of His kids.

And our Lord has called us to be His instruments in caring for those children of His.

That brings its own sense of self-worth and personal satisfaction.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you (Philippians 4:8-9 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter