

How Much Is \$34 Million?

by Wayne Goff

Last week we noted that a Kansas City Chiefs defensive back received \$34 million in guaranteed money (money paid to him regardless of injury, etc.). But how much is \$34 million? Perhaps the easiest way to comprehend such money is to break it down to a weekly salary. So let's just take \$1 million and divide it by 52. That would make a weekly paycheck of \$19,230.77! Could you live on that kind of money? Now multiply that times 34 and you see what we're talking about. If that young man simply put that money in the bank, never drew one dime of interest, and never made another dollar in his life, he could still spend \$19,230.77 every week until he reached the age of 58. If he cut his spending in half, and only spent \$9,615.39 every week, then that money would last him until the age of 92. Everyone would like to have that kind of financial arrangement, I'm pretty sure.

Now think about this for a moment. With that kind of money made, why do some football players wind up in bankruptcy a decade or two after retirement, if not sooner? And the answer to that question gets me back to my point. That kind of money attracts all kinds of attention: agents, investors, insurers, etc. Men who may not be scrupulous can get their hands on such money and empty out your bank account quickly. Some young men cannot discipline their spending and develop very lavish spending habits so that suddenly \$20,000 per week just isn't enough! Others get involved in expensive divorce cases where much of their money is spent in settlements. My point? With riches comes great responsibility. Most of us never think about it. We are to be God-given stewards of our blessings, whether it is counted in time, ability, opportunity, or money. The better the character, the better the stewardship will be. But a great deal of responsibility just fell into that young man's lap. I pray that his character will not be changed and that he will handle both his money and his responsibility well.

Would you think first to give the firstfruits to the Lord, if you made that much money? If so, how much would you give? *"...For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more"* (Lk. 12:48). Do you still want \$34 million?

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