



Do now task

Have you ever heard of the Health and Wealth Gospel? It is faith in Christ that has been around a while that basically says:

“If you are faithful enough to God, he has to bless you with health and wealth”

In your opinion how true is this belief?





Religious
Studies

The Ethics of Wealth

WALT: Examine whether religions and religious believers should be wealthy



Religious Perspectives of Wealth

1. Jesus said that 'it is easier for a camel ...
2. Sikhs are only allowed wealth if it is used...
3. Hindus should know that what really matters: love, happiness, goodness...
4. The Buddha warned that not even a shower of cash can...
5. Muslims believe in Zakat, giving away...



WALT: Examine whether religions and religious believers should be wealthy



Answers

1. Jesus said 'it is easier for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven'.
2. Sikhs are only allowed wealth if it is used to help others.
3. Hindus should know that what really matters: love, happiness, goodness cannot be bought.
4. The Buddha warned that not even a shower of cash can make you happy.
5. Muslims believe in zakat, giving away 2.5% of their money to charity.

Do you think these views are helpful in today's society?



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The religion of millionaires



- More than two-thirds of the world's millionaires are affiliated with a religion. Of the 13.1 million millionaires in the world:
- 56.2% are Christian
- 6.5% are Muslim
- 3.9% are Hindu
- 1.7% are Jewish

- Given that money has been at the centre of human society for 5,000 years, it's no surprise that all the major religions have a lot to say about it.
- No religion today actively encourages wealth.
- However, it's difficult to associate religion with wealth. After all, religions are supposed to be all about faith and spirituality. But religion is much like any other organisation. Religion has leadership, it has income and expenses.
- If you look around you will see there are a lot of very wealthy religions/religious believers.

Are wealthy religious people hypocrites?





How much is the Vatican worth?

Receives donations by Catholics from around the world



Collects revenue through admissions to its museums, tours, and highly sought-after stamps and coins

Invests in companies and artefacts

The sale of publications

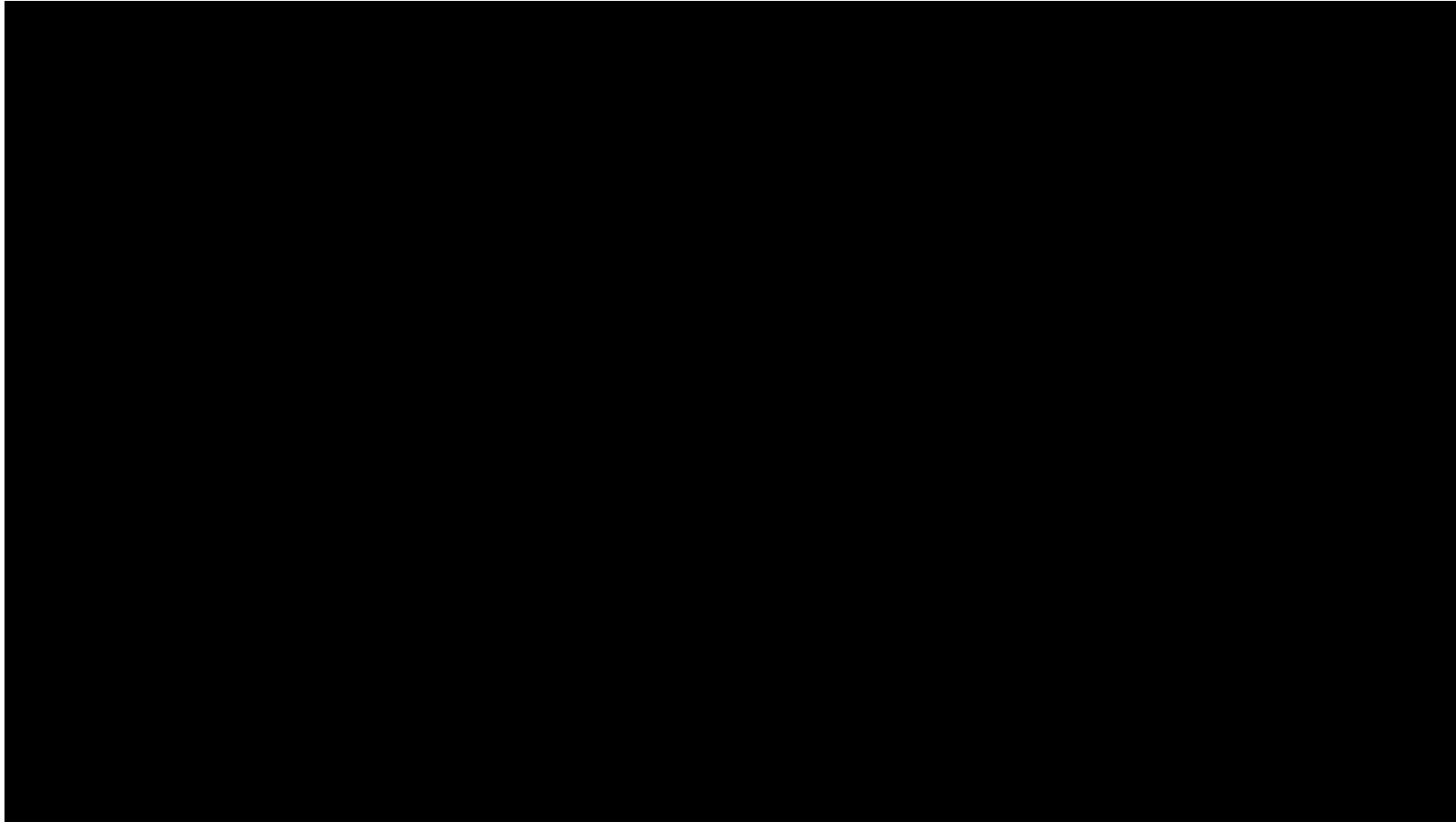
Should rich religious organisations like this exist?



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Church of Scientology

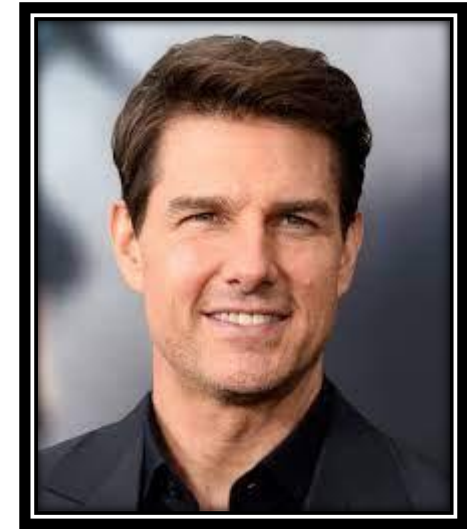




Famous Scientologist

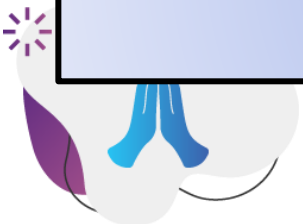
Prominent Scientologist Tom Cruise joined the Church of Scientology not long after his father died in 1984.

Cruise believes *‘Scientology gives people tools to help better your life. That's what Scientology is. It helps you to improve your life.’*



Do you think Tom Cruise can still ‘improve his life’, considering he is so wealthy?

Tom Cruise is described as a ‘global icon’ can he still be dedicated to his faith and continue to uphold this image?



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Antilia

- Antilia is the second most expensive house in the world and is worth about £1.5 billion.
- It has a snow room, six floor car parking, three rooftop helipads, nine elevators etc.
- The owner of this house is Mukesh Ambani a practising Hindu and chairman of Reliance Industries Limited.



There is a Hindu saying: 'wealth earned and spent for one's own pleasure is evil' Would you consider this example as 'evil'?



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For and against

'The American currency should not have this slogan'

Agree

Disagree





Plenary

You have today studied the ethics of wealth through:

- Health and Wealth Gospel view
- Some religious views about wealth
- Religious millionaires
- The Vatican
- Church of Scientology
- Antilia
- 'In God we trust'

To what extent do you think you can be both religious and wealthy?

