

# Proverbs 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

## Analysis

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Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished, but he that gathers by labor shall increase. Ill-gotten wealth (hebel - vapor, vanity) dissipates quickly; honestly earned wealth grows. The verse distinguishes between legitimate and illegitimate wealth acquisition. Shortcuts to riches (gambling, fraud, get-rich-quick schemes) lead to loss. Patient, honest labor builds lasting wealth. The principle: means matter, not just ends.

## Historical Context

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Reflects wisdom tradition's emphasis on honest labor versus schemes to acquire quick wealth. Ancient con games and gambling depleted resources as surely as modern versions.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How much of your wealth-building strategy relies on honest labor versus 'vanity' shortcuts?

2. What 'vain' wealth-seeking should you abandon for patient, diligent work?

## Interlinear Text

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הוֹן	מִהָבָל	יִמָּעַט	וְלִקְיָץ	עַל	דְּ
Wealth	gotten by vanity	shall be diminished	but he that gathereth	H5921	by labour
H1952	H1892	H4591	H6908		H3027
יִרְבָּה:					
shall increase					
H7235					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 20:21** (Parallel theme): An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.

**Proverbs 10:2** (Parallel theme): Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

**Proverbs 28:8** (Parallel theme): He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

**Proverbs 28:20** (Parallel theme): A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

**Proverbs 28:22** (Parallel theme): He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

**Psalms 128:2** (Parallel theme): For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

**Jeremiah 17:11** (Parallel theme): As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

**Job 20:15** (Parallel theme): He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: God shall cast them out of his belly.

