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# Junkyard Wisdom Rebuilt

### Resisting the Whisper of Wealth

### in a World of Broken Parts



In Junkyard Wisdom, Roy Goble explored the tension between wealth and poverty, between faithfulness and temptation. He tackled the

question of what it means to be an ambassador of Jesus in a world of walls, and what it takes to break those walls down. Today, that question is more relevant than ever, and its answers are no less meaningful.

Roy Goble grew up learning how to evaluate everything for the value of its parts, and later experienced the complexity of creating wealth while pursuing what Jesus was calling him to be and do. From a decades-long quest to understand his place in the world came a book that told of generosity, the path to a meaningful life, and what it means to break down the walls of the world. Now, in the face of a transformed world with more complex walls, Junkyard Wisdom Rebuilt takes on these principles with new perspective.

Most of us live a life of abundance, insulated from the poor or anyone else who might threaten that comfortable life. Yet the spiritual hunger we are struck with, so eloquently laid out in the original Junkyard Wisdom, remains. How do we overcome this to enjoy a meaningful life to the fullest? And how can we bridge those divides, which lie both in our own communities and across the globe? Goble's reworking faces the turmoil of our changing world head-on to answer these questions in a way that makes for an inspiringly relevant read.

We are commissioned to be ambassadors for Jesus, beginning where we live and reaching the other side of the planet. Roy Goble takes us with him on a search for ways to build that reach as a relationship of exchanged love, faith, and hope, and Junkyard Wisdom Rebuilt gives this journey a new perspective that redefines the path to the abundant future waiting for us at the end.



# About the Author



Roy Goble grew up working in his father's junkyard, where he learned to take apart and evaluate anything and everything. After studying economics and business at Westmont College, and marrying his high school sweetheart, D'Aun, he joined his family's growing real estate business. As the business flourished, he experienced the complexity of creating wealth while following Jesus. He began to wrestle with what he knew about business and what Jesus was calling him to be and do, sparking a decades-long quest for a way to understand his place. Today he runs a real estate investment company based in Silicon Valley, leads the ministry PathLight International, and serves on multiple

boards—while still finding time to visit and learn from friends and ministry partners around the world. Following Jesus as a wealth creator has turned out to be harder and better than he ever imagined, and sometimes he misses the simplicity of selling parts in the junkyard. After so many years of marriage, however, D'Aun tells him he already owns too many old cars.

Visit Roy at his website: junkyardwisdom.com



## What Others are Saying About Junkyard Wisdom Rebuilt

As it turns out, there is, indeed, a whole lot of wisdom that can come out of a junkyard, and the slums of Thailand, and the jungles of Belize. I'm grateful for the way that Roy brings us on the adventure as he wrestled with faith, wealth, and poverty. It's helpful for my walk with God, how he is at work in the world, and I think it will be for yours as well.

-Henry Kaestner, co-founder of Faith Driven Entrepreneur and Faith Driven Investor

Every night before falling asleep I pray, "Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me." I may change that prayer after reading [*Junkyard Wisdom*] *Rebuilt*. Instead, I may begin to pray, "Create in me a gritty heart like Roy's, O God," because it is in the darkest soil of the world that the soul grows. Roy's book takes us into the holy grime, the tensions of wealth and poverty, and the truly rich life that comes from not forgetting the poor.

-Fred Smith, Founder of The Gathering

Roy Goble beautifully weaves such deep wisdom into understanding the role of wealth.

-Randy Newcomb, Senior Advisor of The Omidyar Group; Founding President/CEO of Humanity United

### Praise for Junkyard Wisdom

Roy Goble's clear and passionate voice comes through the pages in a genuine and challenging way as he peels back the protective coats surrounding his own vulnerabilities. His openness to describing his own personal flaws allows us to consider more fully the planks in our own eyes. The result is liberating, creating an environment of true and honest self reflection. *Junkyard Wisdom* is written in Roy's easy-to-read, down-home style—but make no mistake, the stories will leave you with big ideas to ponder and hopefully pursue.

# -Mark Zoradi, CEO of Cinemark Theaters; past president of Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures Group

Roy Goble is a friend of mine. In fact, he's the first friend I ever had. We met just out of kindergarten. He was a guy who was always getting into mischief and I was drawn to him like a magnet. You will be too. It's a holy mischief Roy's been up to since then. Roy's success in the world hasn't led him to the wealthy, it's brought him to the poor and hurting. This beautifully written book is a story about what Roy has learned along the way about love and compassion and Jesus.

-Bob Goff, Chief Balloon Inflator, Love Does + Restore International



# Suggested Interview Questions for Roy Goble author of Junkyard Wisdom Rebuilt

#### Q: You talk about walls a lot in the book. Why is wealth so divisive?

**A:** Our culture values wealth more than it values God. Wealth is seen as something far more important than it really is. That creates division amongst us. We wealthy people are adept at putting up walls to insulate ourselves. But whether we know it or not, those walls separate us from people.

#### Q: Does wealth interfere with following Jesus?

A: Let me share two ways that it does. First, wealthy people can solve problems on their own. It's as if God isn't necessary, which isn't the experience in developing countries. Second, the wealthy have an abundance of temptation around them. We're so drawn to shiny new things. We forget God because we numb ourselves with all the temptations around us.

## Q: What would you say to someone who said, "Wealth is God's blessing in your life, and you should enjoy it?"

**A:** They got it half right. Anything God gives us as a blessing is to be used for God's glory. So yes, wealth can be enjoyed, just as any gift from God. But to think of it as something that is merely our own is to turn it into something ugly and self-centered. We have to see the wealth as God's, not ours, so we can utilize it in a way that honors God.

### Q: How did your upbringing shape how you understand wealth?

**A:** For the first 12 years of my life I lived in a classic American middle-class suburb. My dad took me to the greasy, dirty junkyard, while on Sundays we went to a church in our finest. It brought me in contact with a wide range of people and broke down those walls we talked about earlier, giving me a unique ability to feel comfortable in a wide range of places.

### Q: Can you tell a story that illustrates what you call the "Christ centered exchange of hope?"

**A:** In my book I talk about Franklin, a young man in Belize. An organization I work with, PathLight, found a North American donor to sponsor Franklin, and the relationship he had with Franklin transformed them both. Franklin views the donor as his grandpa and his hope in the future has been restored. The donor's sense of hope has been restored from the more cynical view he had earlier. It truly is a Christ-centered exchange of hope.

### Q: What does the church get right — and wrong — about generosity?

A: A lot! It gets a lot right and it gets a lot wrong. . . .



### Q: What is a cultural translator, and why are they so important?

**A:** Cultural translators are the bridge between knowing and doing. In Galatians 2, as Paul traveled the world, he had to create the bridges of understanding between the rich and the poor. He had to become a cultural translator between the two. We're to do the same – share the needs of the poor with those who walk the corridors of power. But we must do it in a way that is rich in cultural awareness, humility, and love. This cultural translation is the single best way we can nurture real change in our society.

### Q: What is the connection between generosity and action?

A: My dad borrowed his life philosophy from the motto of his alma mater: Acta Non Verba. He was right—and he was also agreeing with what we see in Scripture. "Learning a lesson" isn't enough. We need to change our behavior and be open to changing it again. Generosity doesn't exist without action and a relationship. True generosity is giving oneself, and doing that requires the time, energy, and focus of building a relationship, all of which takes action!

### Q: Do you have any tips for how to be more generous?

**A:** First, give from your poverty. Jesus honored the widow who gave two pennies, not the rich who gave far more. So what might be your poverty? For most of us we lack time. So give that and see how God shows up. And second, greed is the evil cousin of generosity. Sometimes we need to step back and not just look at what we are giving, but what we are taking.

### Q: You lead experiential trips to Belize. Why?

A: Belize is an incredible and often overlooked country. It can be tough to translate concepts from a book like generosity—into concrete actions. But travelling to Belize can help people see, touch, and feel both poverty and hope. That's the kind of real experience people get.

### Q: What made you decide to update Junkyard Wisdom?

**A:** Because the world went crazy again! So many things happened between the time I wrote the first version and now. As I heard from more and more people who were reading Junkyard Wisdom, I realized that I wanted to make the book relevant to all these changes.

### Q: Who do you think needs to hear your message?

**A:** Authors are tempted to say that everyone should read their book...so, everyone! But it's particularly important for people who want to be generous but understand how messy generosity can be. As well as that, a lot of people don't think they are wealthy when in truth they are, and I explore that in the book in a way that has helped people understand their own capacity to change the world.

