From Riches to Rags

Why is it that you hear about people who win millions of dollars in the lottery and then end up penniless? The painful truth is that many people get in over their heads when they win the lottery. Sometimes they end up paying for it for the rest of their lives.

How have lottery winners lost their money? Some simply spent too freely and quickly, spending money as if it were endless. Many gave huge sums to family and friends, either as gifts or loans. Some bought houses and cars, took big vacations, and spent their money in wasteful ways. Others lost their winnings through carelessness. One lottery winner won $114 million but spent it all quickly. He claims that the lottery ruined his life.

Many thoughtful winners, though, have tried to do good with their money. However, overly large donations to charities, schools, and churches left some lottery winners with very little money. Other winners started businesses that were unsuccessful and lost lots of money in the business.

However, not all lottery winners have lost their millions. Some, such as Luke Pittard of Wales, returned to their jobs! He missed his coworkers. Said Pittard about his workmates, “They all think I’m a bit mad, but I tell them there’s more to life than money.” With that kind of attitude, it’s no wonder that at least one former lottery winner is still just that—a winner.