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Alms and Eternal Life

Alms giving is based on Luke 12:33. The disciples asked the question, "Who then can be saved?" (Mark 10:26) {Luke 12:33; 14:33; 16:9; Matt 19:21 and Acts 4:32} But Paul knew the gospel as all the apostles did — he knew what the Master taught in Matt 28:19,20. He took the principle of Luke 12:33 and applied it to 1 Cor 16:2 and 2 Cor 9:7. No one would then have believed that these passages of scriptures would justify an independent life style. Acts 4:32-35 is the only way the church can be, and all giving was based on selling what they had accumulated. From this they give alms, 1 John 3:17, which is what 1 Tim 6:17-19 says will give a foundation which is life eternal. Alms giving is based on love (1 John 3:14b and 3:17). This is in order that they may lay hold of eternal life (Matt 6:20,21: 19:21).

Alms — the offering Paul was taking up for Jerusalem was mercy and piety, as Matt 6:1-4 and Acts 10:2. Acts 11:29,30 and Ps 41:1,2,3 — Alms or alms giving are gifts prompted by love to help the needy. They are given in cheerfulness — 2 Cor 9:7; true love — 1 Cor 13:3; a willing spirit — Deut 15:7-11; simplicity — Matt 6:1-4; and fairness to all — Acts 4:32-35. Alms, as you can see, are designed to help the poor (Lev 25:35) receive a blessing, Deut 15:10,11 and Rom 15:25-27. So, to give alms as Luke 12:33 says or commands, is to sell your possessions and give alms — which provides a blessing and is rewarded — Deut 14:28,29; 2 Cor 9:9,10; and Matt 19:21.

Luke 3:11; 6:30; 11:41 — Giving from the heart makes everything else right, if one gives to the poor alms, his heart is no longer in the grip of greed and wickedness (Luke 11:39; 14:13,14; 16:9; 18:22). Luke 19:8 — What Zaccheus did was more than the Law required (Num 5:7); his righteousness exceeded that of the scribes and the Pharisees (Prov 6:31 and Matt 5:20). He was a son of Abraham (John 8:39). (Hag 2:7,8 — All the silver and gold are His.)

Our Master told the rich young ruler the "terms of peace" of Luke 14:32. But he was unwilling to submit to them. The salvation in Is 49:6 is for all who will forsake (not just willing but never do) all their lives, all their own possessions. Let me restate, the salvation of Is 49:6

comes from the light of the good news proclaimed as a witness of the Kingdom of God in advance of His coming to those who forsake everything in obedience to the "terms of peace," (Mark 10:29; Luke 14:26; Matt 10:37, etc.).

Capitulation

The objective of Mark 10:17-31 is how and who can be saved — or have eternal life — Mark 10:17. The Great Commission spells out very clearly what the objective of preaching the gospel is, "to make disciples," (Matt 28:18-20). Disciples are the only ones who have eternal life. So if we condense the gospel to how to become a disciple *after one truly believes* then Luke 14:33 would be it. This one statement has the phrase, "so therefore," in it, which refers to the previous statement concerning the terms of peace to the Coming King, verse 32. There is no way one can be His disciple unless he renders to the King absolute and total capitulation. This is what it means to repent.

Capitulation is a surrender on specified terms constituting an agreement between governments. The terms of peace are capitulation — which is an agreement with specific stipulations exacted by the greater army (or the conqueror), it is the act of agreement of one that surrenders to an enemy upon stipulated terms as Luke 14:33. The *therefore* is there for to stipulate the terms of peace as it is applied to disciples.

Whoever reneges the treaty is like a dog, 2 Pet 2:20-22. They may have never really capitulated at baptism — or their belief never entered into their heart. Eph 1:13 — We are saved by believing — but of course believing entails the whole gospel, not just Yahshua or that He exists, etc., but believing unto salvation upon His name. It is like it says, "Baptism now saves you," (1 Pet 3:21) . That is that baptism means — or all that belief means, like it says in John 3:16 and 36. John 3:15 — "Whoever believes into Him may in Him find eternal life."

Mark 10:17 — This young man really wanted to know, what he had to do to have eternal life. The King gave this man an opportunity to have what he asked for. So he had to choose between his possessions and eternal life. He failed to take the opportunity to prove his sincerity. It did not matter what he believed since he did not forsake all he had, he could not learn to be a

disciple through correspondence, but only in direct experience with the Son of God (Acts 5:32). To become a disciple one must receive the Holy Spirit and the word of God says that He is only given to those who obey the Son of God — this was the rich young ruler's chance.

Training the Apostles

The Master was training His future apostles by this very important object lesson, Matt 28:19,20. One must then obey the Son of God (His gospel) in order to be saved — in order to have eternal life. Luke 14:33; Mark 10:29 has a context for obeying Him in Acts 4:32-35. John 17:20 is the only gospel possible that could cause the Church to be formed. The way it took shape was "through their word," (John 17:20; Acts 4:32), in order that possessions would not be the means of any strife or greed they were giving up both (the possessions and the strife) for the "sake of the gospel, for the sake of the Kingdom, for the sake of the King Yahshua the Messiah." [Mark 10:29....Luke 18:29....Possessions; Mark 10:30...Luke 18:30....Eternal life]

Luke 18:29 and Mark 10:29 — All who are partakers of the Son of God, 1 John 5:12, have given up these things and all their own possessions for His sake who died for them and rose again on their behalf — 2 Cor 5:15 — since they no longer live for themselves they see no need to hang onto their possessions and disobey the Son of God's command. The apostles were trained to preach the good news of salvation. The rich young ruler's question was about how to have eternal life.

John 3:16 — Speaks of all those who truly believe into the Son. The rich young ruler did not truly believe unto salvation. The salvation Messiah preached was life for life (Matt 16:25). It wasn't that one big fish got away because our Master did not use wisdom — speak the right words to him — make friend with him first, etc., etc., etc. He didn't leave grieved because he heard the wrong message or because he didn't believe, but because he would not forsake all he had in obedience to the Master's command. Whoever obeys the Son of God will be saved, Heb 5:9 and John 2:23-25. It is obvious what the right interpretation of John 3:36 is. The word in Greek is "disobeys" the Son, all other renditions are wrong. The word is not rejects or disbelieves — it is disobeys. If a person disobeys the Son he cannot have the Son (1 John 5:12).

The Wrath of the Coming King

The rich young ruler could have had the Son if he had obeyed the Son. But he went away with the wrath of God remaining upon him. He must endure God's wrath for the sake of his possessions. Luke 14:32 — He asked for the terms of peace in Mark 10:17 but they, the terms of peace, did not agree with him. They were too hard, so the wrath of the coming King would be easier for him to endure than giving up all his own possessions and making them common property for all the saints in need (Luke 12:33; Acts 4:32-35). But maybe he thought that he could after all with his 10,000 men oppose the one who comes against him with 20,000 (Luke 14:31). He would have to turn all his assets into cash and buy or produce warfare materials, and spend the rest of his life preparing for the battle, while the King is far off.

But in verse 33 the "therefore" is there for the purpose of salvation from the coming wrath of the King against all who refuse to surrender now while He is far off, John 3:36; 2 Thess 1:8,9. The rich young ruler did not "know God," nor did he obey the gospel. (Those who know God know what He wants and they know what pleases Him.) If he had obeyed the good news he would have known God, but like those in verses 8 and 9, they refused to know God by the witness of the gospel of the Kingdom, Matt 24:14. 2 Thess 2:12 ensures that all those who have not put their trust in the truth but took pleasure in wickedness (the world) will be condemned.

Rev 17:14 — are all those who did obey the Son of God and remained faithful to Him until the end. They are the those who are with Him in 2 Thess 1:8. Jude 14,15 — These holy ones are those who obeyed the Son of God and received the Holy Spirit — becoming disciples of Messiah, enduring hardship until "this end," (Matt 24:13; Rev 19:17-21). Rev 17:14 — The kings of the earth make war on the Lamb and those with Him — who are the called, the chosen, and the faithful. They are called like the rich young ruler, but he was not chosen — many are called but how few are chosen. And the chosen must be faithful to the end (2 Tim 2:11-13).

The easy gospel message believers will be burned with fire forever and ever — Rev 19:2,3. They deceived the nations — Rev 18:23,24, and killed the prophets, etc. down through history. They have been guilty of the bloodshed and responsible for wars.

The disciples just didn't hum one more verse of, "just as I am," for the rich young ruler as he walked off grieved because he gave up what he could not lose for something he could not keep. 1 John 5:11 says that the witness is this, that God had given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. Verse 20 says this is the true God and eternal life. This is what the rich young ruler would not give up what he had for what he wanted.

At the Billy Graham crusades he offers people happiness, joy, fulfillment, and success because he knows that people are looking for eternal life after they die — after living a life with all their own possessions they kept as stewards and when the need arose they would give some of God's money to the needy. The pattern of Acts 4:32 could not even begin to materialize in any facsimile because they received "eternal life" by another gospel than the one Yahshua preached. Satan is a master counterfeiter when it comes to false assurance — He makes sure every one feels good and secure in this non-works salvation doctrine (which Yahshua then was guilty of preaching another gospel by Gal 1:8, and was cursed according to Paul's words).

2 Cor 11:3,4 , 13-15 — If any one comes to you now and tells you that you had to do something to have eternal life an alarm goes off and the prophet is stoned and crucified. Acts 22:10-16 — Paul worked when he got up and he was baptized and washed his sins away, and he called upon His name. Paul knew His name spoken with His own voice, Acts 26:14-18.

Salvation

One cannot come to the Son of God for Salvation on the basis of psychological needs, anxieties, lack of peace, a sense of hopelessness, an absence of joy or a yearning for happiness — all which modern evangelists offer to those who accept Jesus into their hearts. But our Master, who was training His future apostles (Matt 28:19,20), taught them that salvation is for disciples only. It is for those who hate their sin and want to turn away from the things of the world.

Eph 2:12 — Salvation is only for those who understand that they have lived in rebellion against the Creator God — who created them for His purpose. Salvation is only for those who repent and live for His glory. Salvation is not a mere psychological phenomena. Grace cannot be preached to people who do not understand the implications of God's law. It is useless to preach

grace to someone who does not know the consequences of sin and God's demand for righteousness. Mercy cannot be understood without an understanding of one's own guilt. Grace cannot be preached to someone who has not heard that God requires obedience and punishes disobedience.

The rich young ruler fell short, but he merely wanted eternal life as a panacea for whatever his problem was. He was looking for an easy solution. He wanted eternal life for his righteous life he was already living. Forgiveness he could not understand since he was keeping all the commandments since his youth. So the Master offered no relief for the distress he had inwardly in his quest for eternal life. It would be a shame that after the rich young ruler lived such a righteous life he would have to go to hell. He wanted eternal life to go with his good life. He had a lack of peace — but to give up all he owned would not be worth eternal life. The command to love his neighbor as himself condemned him to eternal destruction (Rom 6:23). He did not want to do what the Law says to do to have eternal life (Rom 8:4). If he really loved his neighbor as much as he loved himself he should have had no problem giving up all he had to them. But the ultimate test was, will the man obey the Son of God?

Yahshua is not teaching His apostles here that they may preach a gospel of salvation by philanthropy. He is not training them to teach that you can buy eternal life with charity or alms. But He is saying — are you going to do what I want you to do? The Master put His finger on the very nerve of human existence, knowing where the heart was (Matt 21). He said, "Unless I can be the highest Authority in your life there is no salvation for you." (Rom 10:9) By placing Himself alongside the man's wealth and demanding he make the choice — our Master revealed the true state of his heart.

Luke 14:33 — Nothing else could do because no one can be His disciple without so doing. "Do we literally have to give up all our own possessions to be a disciple?" Yes, it is the very terms of peace with the Son of God, the Coming King (Eph 1:20,21; Luke 1:32). Acts 4:32; Matt 28:20 — This is what He taught His apostles to preach in order to make disciples of all

nations. Would He be the Sovereign? Would He be less than sovereign? Only by the Holy Spirit can men say, "Yahshua is Sovereign." It's God or it's mammon! It's one sovereignty of another.

The rich young ruler loved his own security — his own dream house and his sweet wife — and all his barns were full. He was not able to say by the Holy Spirit that "Yahshua is Sovereign," because his possessions were more important. It would have been too easy for Yahshua to say, "just be willing to," and "keep it all as a good steward." But he could not come to Yahshua as sovereign = Luke 14:32 if it meant = Luke 14:33. So he went away grieved — he really wanted to eternal life but he would not come the way the Master said he must come to Him — in the way of confessing his sin and surrendering all to His Lordship (Acts 4:32). If he had, our Master would not have cast him away.

He came for eternal life but he left without it. Prov 13:7 — There is one who makes himself rich yet has nothing; another who makes himself poor yet has (everything) great riches. The rich young ruler thought he was rich but he walked away from Yahshua poor (with absolutely nothing). Salvation is as Eph 2:8,9 says, but he had no faith. Real faith is a commitment to leave sin in all its forms and follow Messiah at all costs (Matt 16:24 and 10:37). Yahshua takes no one who will not come to Him on these terms, for they are the terms of peace. (On His terms, His good news, Mark 1:14.) This is repentance, and unless one repents he will likewise perish.

Repentance

Repentance (1) and submission (2) to His Sovereignty are absolute in baptism, Rom 10:8-17. Faith comes by hearing the word of God — these two are essential for salvation and are essential aspects of God's work of faith in the human heart, John 6:44,45 (for salvation). Any other message may offer psychological relief — but they are still under the death sentence. A person who does not forsake all he has, sins, possessions, false religion and selfishness, will find he cannot come to Messiah and obey Him in faith (Acts 5:30-32; Heb 5:9).

The rich young ruler asked Yahshua what he could do to obtain eternal life and after he left without receiving it, Yahshua said to His disciples Matt 19:23 and Mark 10:24 — How hard

it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. In the next verse He says it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God and eternal life all refer to salvation. The disciples, having been trained well by their Master, clearly understood this for they asked, "Then who can be saved?"

If riches and possessions were not the issue then our Master would not have elaborated on it. Whatever terms He used: receiving eternal life, entering the Kingdom, or being saved, the main point in His gospel was always salvation (Luke 5:37 and 1 Tim 1:15). The rich man must obey Luke 16:9. This is eternal life, a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life (1 Tim 6:19 in the NKJV, Matt 19:21; Mark 10:21; Matt 6:20,21). The rich young ruler did not realize what eternal life really was — or eternal death, as the rich man in Luke 16:23,24.

The Free Gift of Eternal Life

So eternal life is a gift, but who does He give it to? Only he who repents — the rich young ruler did not repent. Before anyone can reach the blood of forgiveness they must reach repentance. Acts 2:38-40 spells it out for all to see and understand. 2 Pet 3:9 — To reach repentance is to confess one's own guilt. The rich young ruler did not confess his guilt, Matt 19:20,21. What he lacked was the keeping of the commandment to love his neighbor as himself (Rom 8:4). Not being able to give all his possessions to his neighbor in need (1 John 3:17) was the evidence of his insincerity (John 7:17). The Spirit gives grace to repent just as He gives grace to walk in accordance with Him (Heb 8:10).

Rom 8:1-4 (NKJV) — The righteous requirements of the law might now be fulfilled in us who walk no longer according to the flesh — but according to the Spirit. (In the nations the law is not so stringent, but they should see to it that their neighbor is not in need.) But in Israel or the Edah the law applies as Matt 22:31-40 says (Rom 13:8,9,10). Rom 12:13 — After you accumulate more than you need (Is 58:7-12; see verse 10 in the Amplified Bible).

So the Gift of God in Rom 6:23 is free, but not loving your neighbor with your wealth is the violation of the Law of God and the wages it pays is death (Mark 12:44; Matt 5:19; Luke 16:17 and 19-31). The free gift — Rom 2:13 — The rich young ruler said that he was keeping the commandment to love his neighbor as himself, but out Master (Matt 19:19,20), as well as Paul, knew that the rich in Israel were under the death sentence if they were not loving their neighbor as their very own life — because the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23). They were to judge it and make atonement for breaking the law of God (Matt 19:19; Lev 19:17,18; Deut 6:6). If the rich young ruler did not make atonement for this sin he would die eternally, like the rich man and Lazarus. It is sin to not love your neighbor as yourself — and when your comfortable life is over you have to be paid in full — Luke 6:24,25; Luke 16:21,25 (Amplified Bible); 18:23; 12:13-21; Rev 18:14.

There is no more comfort, no more food and clothes, no more dream house and yacht, no more "golf and tennis anyone," no more of anything good. The NASB says in Luke 6:24,25 — that your comfort is now over with and woe to you who are well fed now, for you shall be hungry, woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep and gnash your teeth. Luke 1:53,54 is Israel, those who will rule with Him forevermore. (2 Tim 2:8-10).

If riches were not an issue, was it the Master teaching Mark 10:23-25? The rich young ruler needed to fall down and admit that he was greedy and selfish and needy. Then he would have received the gift of God, Rom 6:23. Eternal life is given to those who repent — John 10:27,28 — I give to them eternal life. Riches keep one from hearing His voice — they shall perish because of their riches. The gift of God is eternal life — one receives this gift when he repents (Acts 17:30). Unless one repents they will perish. Only sinners can repent. The rich young ruler could not repent because of his wealth and riches. God and riches are diametric opposites.

Luke 5:32 — The rich young ruler said, "I've obeyed all the commandments, which ones have I not obeyed?" (Matt 19:20) He thought he was righteous but wanted eternal life. Luke 12:33 and Mark 10:21,24 — Unless repentance is preached there can be no forgiveness of sins

(Luke 24:47 and Acts 26:20). Repentance doesn't save you, baptism saves you. But there is no baptism without repentance. The fruit of repentance is a life of love — John 13:34; Luke 3:8; John 15:8.

Luke 13:3 — This is the absolute truth. It is made fun of today. Unless you repent you too will perish. Being saved — They asked our Master, "Are their just a few being saved?" (Luke 13:23) But the answer He gave destroys easy believism. Strive means agonizing, intense, purposeful struggles — 1 Cor 9:25; Col 4:12; Matt 11:12; Luke 16:16. (Luke 13:1 — They did an evil deed against Roman law and were guilty, verse 2.)

Acts 14:22 and 1 Pet 4:18 — Yes, only a few, because the gate is small and few (not many) are those who find it (Matt 7:14; Jer 29:13). "Being saved" — Luke 13:23,24 speaks of the few versus the many. We are saved and we are being saved — in the process of being conformed to His image and likeness — which is a hard thing to accomplish. Once we are fallen away from our creative purpose and likeness it is a hard road back to rule with Him — to come to Phil 3:10-12.

To say that Luke 14:33 is not to be literally obeyed and a person is only to be willing to obey this disobeys the gospel and such a one is condemned by his disobedience. This persons reasons away essential ingredients by which one can exercise his faith and love for our Master and surrender to the Coming King by the terms of peace this parable teaches. So Christianity today says that Luke 14:33 only means you must be willing to give up everything. This is reasoning which is a satanic principle just as 1 Sam 15:23 was a satanic principle in Saul. (See the Reasoning Teaching, page 9)