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Possessions Do Make the Difference

As the Rich Young Yuppie article portrays, his possessions indicated who he really served. They told what possessed his loyalty and devotion, even more than the desire for eternal life (Mk 10:17-30). It can be said then that possessions do make the difference between life or death. They make the difference between eternal life and eternal death. Would the eternal God have mercy upon one who chose material things over spiritual things — over even His gift of eternal life?

The Rich Young Ruler chose his many possessions, his earthly treasures, over heavenly treasure. He went away sorrowful because the Son of God had to put having eternal life in comparison with possessions. The rich young ruler would leave thinking, "Surely the Son of God would not be so narrow-minded as to think in terms of swapping his possessions for eternal life. After all, eternal life is a free gift by grace alone through faith."

But as Yahshua said, "There is only one thing you lack — FAITH!" Faith is hearing and obeying. Grace was present in the world in Yahshua — but grace is accompanied by trust (Jn 8:31; 1:9,14,16). The truth was the spoken word — it is what one must do to have eternal life — as the rich young ruler ardently inquired of Him (Mk 10:17).

Yahshua might have said, "Just believe **in** me, that's all you have to do." Then the rich young ruler would not have gone away sad at all. Thus the whole world would not know, even to now, that materialism controls and pervades the very nature of mankind. But now they know through the good news, even as Mt 26:13 says. You can't even hear the good news without hearing that possessions possess the person and must be given up in order to be a disciple (Lk 14:33).

Mk 10: 17-30 is an account of a rich man and the Son of God — the Son of God being full of grace and truth (Jn 1:14). The rich man was full of greed of every kind which kept him from seeing the true light which enlightens every man (Jn 1:9; 3:17,18). The judgment of this rich man is based on Jn 3:19. The rich man wanted eternal life but he sadly walked away from its source, who had come into the world to enlighten every man. Jn 3:20 was the reason the rich man was sad — he could not have the eternal life he asked for and have his possessions for himself also.

Put yourself in the place of the coming King with all his army. What would you do to the other king who would not surrender to you while you were far off (Rev 19:14-20)? Everyone who hears the good news hears about possessions, even as the disciples did at Pentecost (Acts 2:40,41). They heard about what they must do in order *to be saved* and *to repent* and *to be baptized* and *receive forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit*. Mt 26:13 is the received word of God — the good news of how to be saved (Mt 1:21). Everyone must then put themselves in the place of the king in Lk 14:31,32 and do what the terms of peace demand in order to be saved (verse 33). When the church fails to preach this or include it in the gospel, verses 34 and 35 describe its condition.

Jn 1:14 — We are saved by grace and truth, which when heard, caused us to receive faith (Rom 1:17). Possessions have a deadly grip on every person alive — over even those who have none — they would have if they had the opportunity. Only those who are still in the second covenant can avoid that deadly grip (Gen 3:16-19). Possessions in themselves are the means by which Satan has his hold over the whole world (1 Jn 5:19; 3:8; Lk 14:33; Lk 12:15-34).

The Religion of Materialism

Lk 12:19 says *soul*. Possessions are the comfort of the soul of man. They go down to the soul — they are greater than life. Life and soul are inseparable (Lk 12:20). Lk 12:31 is what most people do not know how to do. Verse 32 — only those who are of His little flock can obey verse 33. Verse 34 is the right perspective, the right way. It is salvation from the spirit that pervades and powerfully controls human nature. Materialism then, is the religion — it is more than a philosophy — rooted in the cause of all evil (1 Tim 6:9-10). Materialism is the motivating force behind all the evil that causes the great chasm between members of societies. The god of this world claims as his own those who make materialism their supreme motivating principle.

Money, sex, status, and recognition all go back to money — the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim 6:9-10). What can truly fill the void in man? Someone called it a "God-shaped void," but what god fills that vacuum? Most if they could would prefer the god of money — material possessions. The religion of materialism is man's primary motivating force. To be educated today means the pursuit of happiness through material possessions, which could not be acquired any other way except to be educated.

Education is the means by which one comes in contact with the most money that can be acquired with society's sanction and approval, even though usually at the expense of others and of conscience (Gen 3:16-19). So the religion that the most godly and devout pursue today, the religion that is the most satisfying and fulfilling of that great void inside, the religion that keeps one seeking first his own kingdom is materialism. They are never satisfied with what they have but are always in pursuit of "bigger barns." Lk 12:18,19 — "I will say to my soul, 'Soul, ah, now, it feels so good.'" That void is finally filled, but only after the long sought after annihilation of the conscience — even as seared with a hot iron.

1 Jn 3:17-19 — This refers to the one and only true God. Who is so astute to be on guard against every form of greed (Lk 12:15)? This is a message to only those who are blessed with the blessed Holy Spirit, who could give them help to judge greed in all its forms. The church is the light of the world, so the church is made up of those who by the Holy Spirit are of one heart and mind. They obey the word. No division of any kind (lack of equal care, 1 Cor 12:25) can produce (cause) light to the world. Light can only come forth from unity, just as it did in the First Church (Acts 4:32). Confusion in direction for the world comes forth out of denominationalism.

Jn 17:21-23 is the truth. It brings grace to the world which sees truth manifested in the oneness of heart and soul of those who believe. They see it in their oneness of purpose. Such oneness gives direction to the watching world since a city on a hill cannot be hidden. A city is under the direction of only one mayor — there is, no division in the city whose head is God. The church is the only means of light and knowledge (revelation) to the world (Jn 17:23; 13:35). If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the ditch. Even in the first century the light was waning (Rev 2:4,5) and it was taken away. The result was what you see today — Christianity. If you can't see it then you are blind (Jn 9:39-41).

Isa 49:6 — As John the Baptist was the light that gave witness to the One who "is the light" coming into the world, so that all who believed through John the Baptist would be distinguished as those who believed in the real Messiah, not just one who announced Himself. Isa 49:6 announces the returning Messiah, Yahshua, King of the World (Rev 1:6; Gen 19:5,6), which will be taken from Satan (Rev 11:5). Isa 49:6 is a light that reveals a harlot — **it** distinguishes a materialistic church from the one Edah that shares all things in common. In it, no one has any need (Dt 15:4) or has more than they need (Acts 4:33-34).

Who Then Can Be Saved?

Greed shows that the accepted norm (of having more than one needs) is from a materialistic god (Rev 17:18). Lk 7:29 — God is in need of being "justified" today also, as Elijah justified "El is Yah" as the true one. To justify God today — since He is an unmaterialistic God who says you must therefore give up all your own possessions in order to be related to Him, the real God — we have to realize that one is inclined to think He is a false god. Even the disciples exclaimed, "Who then can be saved?" (Mk 10:26).

Today Christians are like the rich young ruler who follow Jesus — without hearing the words which would make them sad. This is because today's preachers in Christianity never let the words Jesus spoke out of their mouth — for who would be saved? Since no one can be His disciple without doing what He says, none of their hearers can be (Lk 6:46). If preachers today spoke His words all people would not speak so well of them (Lk 6:26). Who would pay them money to tell them they were saved? And if the preachers preached what Jesus preached, who even understands God's ways today? (Heb 3:10).

The rich young ruler did not understand, nor did the disciples when they exclaimed, "Who then can be saved?" When we say we understand God's ways we are referring to His way of salvation and the way to pass through the narrow door (Lk 13:24,25). What are the methods He employs to accomplish salvation of His people — in order for His purpose to be done on earth? What motivates God to say such drastic things in relation to His salvation of His people? (Mt 1:21).

Can the potter **say** to the pot what He desires and can the pot say to the potter, "How dare you?" Have Christians not also gone astray in their hearts since they obviously do not understand His ways? (Heb 3:10). God has gone to much effort to save us from our sins. He knows what our sins are and He wants us to know what our sins are. The world He loves is enthralled **in** materialism. It is the pursuit of gaining possessions for yourself regardless of the welfare of your neighbor, or how they are hurt by the pursuit of your own personal welfare.

"The Virtue of Selfishness," is the philosophy the educated of today live by. Capitalism gives the opportunity by which the kings of the nations are chosen from (Rev 21:24). Those who have the most opportunity to go astray from the second covenant are also those who able to do the most good to their fellow man.

What would one sacrifice for his own comfort? The rich young ruler sacrificed the ultimate good a man can achieve today — being a true disciple of Messiah. Lk 14:33 is what it takes to obey Rom 12:2 — because such a one knows God's ways more than anyone else on earth. Only he knows what God's perfect will is, and only he can then do His will (Mt 7:21). It is not all who claim to be disciples but the few who do not conform to the present age or world in its vain philosophy and religions — which are chiefly disguised forms of materialism.

Materialism is the world's most promising religion. The kings of the nations written about **in** Rev 21:24 would not sacrifice their own conscience for the sake of their own comfort. They had the knowledge of good and evil and chose the good for the sake of conscience (Rom 2:6-8; 1:18-21). Men became vain (Rom 1:21); the word became (or was) darkened indicates a pre-existing condition or start just as in Gen 1:2. (The same word is in Rev 18:2 and Jn 1:14). Men became darkened just like Christianity became like the nations (2 Kng 17:15 — They "became" worthless — NIV). Jer 2:5 — They became worthless themselves. Christians do not ask where is the Lord who created the First Church (Jer 2:6; Acts 4:32) because they are all alike worthless and cannot phrase such a question.

Eph 6:24 and Rev 2:4 was the time of transition (Rev 2:4 - 3:14). This time is when the First Church *became* worthless; regardless of traditions and learned doctrines. Without light for

the hearers it is useless — worth nothing — the flesh profits nothing. The overcomers were not the Church, they were the overcomers from the Church and they could not carry out the plan and purposes of the Church — so they died and went to heaven, where they are today. All the rest went to death, where they are today. They are there waiting for judgment for a second death (Rev 2:11 and 3:5).

When Satan can't offer any of the disciples of Messiah any part of the kingdom he rules — his end will come to an abrupt ending (Rev 11:15). Mt 4 — Satan rules through material possessions while Messiah's disciples are asked to give them up so that Satan cannot have any dominion over them — at least not through their possessions (Acts 5:11). Possessions make one even lie to God.

What He Once Counted as Everything

That night (Lk 12:20) the rich man turned into a very foolish man. His philosophy and religion turned sour — they turned against him. The rich man said just before his life was required of him, "What I believed in all my life has become dust. My entire life has been crossed out and has turned out to have been for nothing." What he now counted as nothing he used to count as everything.

Yahshua knew that and included in the gospel a way to be set free from the ongoing temptation of material gain (1 Jn 3:17; Lk 12:29-34). The community is established and continued by giving what you cannot keep and keeping what you cannot lose. The rich young ruler would not give up what he could not keep to gain what he could not lose. The feeling the rich man in Lk 12:19,20 was feeling was in his soul. It fooled him or made him a fool of him. "I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many possessions, for many years rest, eat, and drink, and be merry.'"

The great god mammon's colleges and universities are advertising their religion of materialism. This is what everyone majors in. They get their degree in religion — to be specific, materialism. Colleges advertise that every dorm room is outfitted with VCRs, MTV, microwave ovens, luxury beds, phone service, food delivery, and every kind of condom available in the market today. Materialism represents humanity today — the most persuasive religion — its god is mammon, who controls the world.

Today materialism is a religion of the most powerful controllers of human thought and reason. The world has never seen such (Dan 12:4). What would one do to satisfy his own desires? If anyone has ever belonged to Messiah he has crucified the flesh with longings and desires and done away with possessions, with the assurance of the future (1 Jn 3:17).