

"THINGS MONEY CANNOT BUY"

Isaiah 55:1

INTRODUCTION:

An American newspaper man who was very practical once wrote these lines.

"It is a good thing to have money. And the things that money can buy. But it is a good thing to check up once in awhile and make sure you have not lost the things that money cannot buy."

V1-  
V2-

In a word, there is nothing really new about that statement because that was the very message of (Isaiah) the Prophet, many years ago. He wrote, he that hath no money, come, ye, buy and eat. Yea, come and buy wine and milk without money, and without price. And then in V. 2 he says (why) weigh out your silver for that which is not bread. Why do you spend the fruit of all of your toil for what gives no content.

Now the spirit of God lifts up a loud voice here - it is like a silver trumpet. Here are some glad tidings for you. And he could broadcast this and reach afar in an attention to all.

Let us listen then and hear the melody that he is playing.

Who are the guests who are invited, All who thirst. All that is needed to be welcome, is not to need. But to want what is offered.

Am I utterly dissatisfied with myself. Then I thirst. Am I dissatisfied with all the world can offer to me - the things which I have tasted. Is my Spirit dissatisfied with what it is being fed.

V, 1 - The call and the cry is three-fold. Come, come, come. First, for water. For which there is such an abundance that the word, he says - there are those that no one can live long without water. It is really man's life. It is a symbol of the Spirit. So that comes first. And then he says, wine for the soul. To fill it with joy. Here is a symbol of joy. And finally for milk. He must not forget that constantly we need milk - the milk of the word that we may grow thereby. So if any man thirst, let him come.

V, 2 And in V. 2 - what gracious and convincing reasoning you are spending all of the labor of your (one short life) - for what. For wealth, for money, for pleasure, for name and fame. Why, that is not bread. And these will not satisfy. Do we not all know it.

We have all within us - nothing of that kind will ever satisfy us. So we incline our ear to the Lord.

Now Jesus had the same message that there were untouchable treasures of the Spirit that rust and moth cannot corrupt. Nor thieves break through and steal.

Nevertheless, we put the emphasis on things that money can buy. We are talking about things that money cannot buy. And this is not new.

All of the major problems are conceived in economic terms. The popular idea that we have pictured is when everybody will be financially well-to-do. We even have theories that we might have guarantee to explain that everything has ever happened in history or ever will, we put it all under a money tag. Even the bulk of the social things in this world. Money, money. Which has always been the chief form of a man's idol. Money minded.

I wonder if we view this with alarm. But let us try to be objective as we state some of the plain facts about our own generation! We are obsessed with the economic aspect of life. Today millionaires are created over night. Now this may be due to the use of the Stock Market or wise investments in a business venture. And often, this is completely honest. But there are times, when dishonesty plays its part. People get inside information and pull off a good deal, to obtain wealth.

The person who works hard to earn a dollar is really more apt to be careful how that dollar is used. Hard times will teach him that a dollar is of real value. And it is not to be wasted.

Material things are a vital part of life - but many often wants to make this material aspect of life an end within itself. We become obsessed that life becomes meaningless. It is wasted and empty because of greed.

We accumulate these material things and feel that as we give attention to wealth, that this is the thing that brings success. There are people who constantly seek wealth. They are never rich enough or they are never satisfied. And they never reach their goal. And the result is greed.

We have a false God called mammon. Unless there is wealth in the soul - men go down to their graves with empty hands. And to just acquire money without a deep interest in life, is certainly to miss a great deal of joy.

Prov. 13:7 says, there is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing. There is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches. One man pretends to be rich. And he has nothing. The other man pretends to be poor, yet he has great possessions. Death is the common goal of all people. And no matter how high one may climb in the world, we see here that they that trust their wealth, people who put complete confidence in worldly possessions, and they depend upon it for everything - and thus, they put God out of the picture. Now, wealth can buy all of this that the world offers. But it cannot buy off death. It cannot add any days to the span of a man's life.

In the Bible we get the other side of the picture presented. It is therefore a good thing to check up once in awhile and make sure. That you have not lost the things that money cannot buy.

I could illustrate this with a family. Here is a family in a household that is very important. But, it can wreck the hopes of that family and of that love - and we can ruin the chances of children in that home. If we lack the things that money cannot buy. Now we know of homes - some are rich and some are poor. Some are financially average. Can you on that basis decide whether the great wreckage of the family life appears. Or where the full tide of love and faithfulness runs high. And I can remember in our home, under economic pressures, that we had to lower down to another notch - the level of expenditures.

We look about us and we see today that there are homes and households that have everything that cash can get. And yet, those homes are pitiful.

We grant the importance that these things are perishable. And yet, people can buy them. In the long run, it is the things that money cannot buy that you do not find listed in the market place that really determine what the family will

be.

*Sam Jones - hurry wife up - go ahead husband -  
walked out - returned - sorry - kissed - just 2 of us -  
forgive me - we get ready - find 138 over there -*

This is true of your personal life. In this world in which we live, if we depend entirely upon the things that money can buy - we will feel a pressure that we have another God other than the living God. And as we get to this matter, we will see how foolish it is - the importance of economics, in our modern life - money is not simply money. It is food, it is a roof over our heads, it is education for children. It is books and music, trips, vacations. And visits to the seashore. It is help for those that we love in time of need. It is assistance to those in old age. It relieves our fears. We can minimum life's economics. We say that this is a freedom that we have in our country. But many people are not free as we consider the situations in the world.

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But the economic situation is something like the old fable of the ox and the colt. That went to a spring to drink. And they fell a quarrel as to which one was going to drink first. Well, there was plenty of room for them both to drink together. But they quarrelled about it and they prepared to fight. And then they looked up and saw the vulchers sailing around low, above - waiting for the battle. That is, waiting until the battle was over. And then they would come in. So the fable goes on to say - that they decided to drink together. Well, something like that is happening in the world today. There are vulchers flying around that threaten us. These economic factors that would take hold of us. And today, we find that everybody is thinking this. We cannot open the newspaper without running

into it. All of the books are obsessed with it - we say it is a good thing to have money and the things that money can buy. That emphasis is here today. And yet, Jesus said, man shall not live by bread alone! That thought is crowded out. A treasure that moth and rust cannot consume. Or thieves break through and steal.

Jesus also said, in Luke 12:14-15, take heed. And beware of covetousness. As he spoke to a man about the needs in his life. It means to unlawfully desire. As someone has said that a man often is discontent with his lot - when he looks and sees what his neighbor possesses.

A woman once demanded a preacher to compel her sister to divide her inheritance with her. When the preacher decided to take the same stand that Jesus did, she went out and said - "if there is a Hell she will go there." The preacher's comment was, this person is already there. What put him there. The fact was, that he was thinking of this world only. Which means to lose everything.

Tolstoi, once told a story about a peasant who was offered all the land that he could walk around in a single day. Needless to say, he walked at a break-neck speed. The over exertion was too much and at the end of the day, he fell dead. Which is like so many people in our society today. The warning against covetousness is based upon good logic. As well as good religion.

If you will closely examine things, you will see that covetousness is the root of all of the evils. Idolatry, Sabbath breaking, dishonoring parents, murder, adultery, thief, lying, etc. It was to be outlawed because of that very reason.

It made a man miserable because of his very existence - his inner being, was all covetous.

Now I grew up on a farm. And I remember well feeding pigs, in a field, or lot. It is a common sight when you see one pig grab an ear of corn, and run off from the bunch to get by himself. You say, how stupid. Well, that much may be true. But not half as stupid as another hog who would leave a whole bushel of corn and run after that fleeing hog squeeling for dear life. Because he covets what the other pig has.

In this society of ours, sometimes we are prone to magnify the comforts and dwell upon the thought of things which we do not have. It might do well for us to somehow, today - to check up on these things and see where we stand. And what can we do.

## I. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THINGS MONEY CANNOT PURCHASE

This we need to recognize - that there are things that money cannot purchase and there is a difference. There are men who see no sense in life. And there are those who look at life in a way as Paul who said, bring whatever you please. I will turn it into something good. To them that love God, all things are going to work together for good. I have fought a good fight - I have finished the course. And I have kept the faith.

Now that is the difference in the man who has zest for those things that are important in existence. What a difference it makes between those to whom their lives

grow emptier and those who grow fuller. And you cannot really explain that difference in terms of just money and what money can buy. Because a man may die in a house. Or Paul may die a prisoner. You cannot tell. But the great thing about life is about the way he faced it and the challenge that he rejoiced in and the deep faith and spiritual insight which Paul had in life. And Paul moved into a realm in which he could say that there are some things that are not for sale. And some things in the market place that you cannot exchange. There are some things unpurchaseable.

I know we have a popular theory about economics and our life is burdened by a sense of guilt and shame. Because of these things in the world, that we give our lives too. And there are those today, that think the world will end up and go to the dogs. But here is an eternal purpose which God had in Christ.

You need to check up and make sure that you have not lost the things that money cannot buy.

*James*  
Certainly the people that have money - need that. Jesus cared about the poor. He often showed his concern for them. But Jesus did not worry half as much about the moral state of the poor, as he did about the moral state of the rich. He feared that the possessions of money would be a major peril. Why did he say, as much in the verse - it is easier for a rope to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. Why did he tell the parable about a man who had a barn that met all of his needs. But was overflowing - when his soul was required of him. Jesus saw the evidence that money can buy so many things. That they have it - they are tempted to forget the things that it cannot buy. In America - we all are concerned about those who lack money. Those who live in poverty.

Those who have a problem. But if Jesus were here today - he would probably be concerned about the moral state of those who have money. Those who have enough for a decent living.

If we do not take an account of this, we are going to miss - because there are those who have an abundance of everything that cash can get them. And suppose in this country, that we reach the place where every man and woman would say, and thou hast much goods layed up for many years. Take thine ease - eat, drink, and be merry. But where the things that money cannot buy have been neglected, forgotten, and lost. That would be like the creation of a Hell on earth. We can underscore this - everything that money can buy depends upon the purpose that it serves. And for its final effect on human life. And upon the things that money cannot buy. We need to remind ourselves over and over again of this truth. There is a difference between the things that money cannot purchase.

## II. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN (POVERTY AND PLENTY) IN BUILDING CHARACTER

Now just a comment on this, the responsibility of what our lives are - and what we are obsessed with in economics. We have an idea that money makes the man. So that if one lacks money - one is tempted to think of himself as a failure. And to blame this on the lack of character. It is hard enough lacking money anyways - but in a generation, when so many voices are shouting, that (poverty is bad). And loose character, ruined homes, and moral corruption is o.k. There is a lot in that idea today. Well, of course, poverty does influence character. Who can know anything about slums and doubt that. That they are dangerous.

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There is no man so poor as he who has only money -

Poverty often leads to the excuse of people taking that excuse for a let-down in character. Beware of the high cost of low-living.

Gold is tested by fire, man is tested by gold -

But on the other side is a man in this city who is trusted with high position, head of a great financial institution. A man of lands and of wealth. He has everything that money can buy. Was it poverty that brought him to shame. And friends who cannot tell where great character is going to come from. Poverty or plenty. We read almost daily of men of high wealthy positions, stealing, etc.

A fool with his money are soon parted, we say, & man may have more money than brains but not for long.

When we think of this, we think of Jesus Christ coming from the carpenter shop. We think of Lincoln who was born the same year - with very little money. And very few of the things that money could buy. But he had everything that money couldn't buy. And Gladstone, who came forth at the same time, who was extremely wealthy - but he also had things that money cannot buy. Because of his high character.

I hope that somebody will be liberated by the truth that I am setting forth here in this sermon. Put it this way - possession is one thing. Ownership is another. Some people possess much and own very little. Some people possess little and own much. Possession is having a house - but ownership is having a home inside that house. Possession is maybe having a 500 acre estate, but ownership is in being and having real love in that situation. Indeed, over against this test of life, we must know that we are tested. Day by day. What can we go without. How much can you go without and still be a real person. That is the test. And that is usually in life - and we have to face it.

During World War II one of their leaders said this - we can well do without butter. But not without guns. Now we have learned a lot about what was going on in Germany. In the personal life of those people.

But here was Helen Keller who could go without sight and hearing and yet be a wonderful person.

Here was Kernahan who went without arms or legs from birth, but sat in Parliament and was a powerful person.

So, a person in this congregation some of them are poor Very poor. And I count it an honor to know each of them. In possession and sight - in ownership, they're shining examples of what we are talking about.

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There was a story about a young violinist who many people said that it was the (violin) that he played on, that helped him to captivate the audience. So one night in London, the violinist played his whole program, without leaving the platform. And he stirred the people with a thunderous applause. When he had finished, he took the violin that he had been playing all evening on, and crushed it to bits across his knee. And threw it on the floor. Now, he said, I will show you - and he played one number on his Strad. His quality was in himself and not merely in an instrument that money could buy.

this glorious truth, that is one of depth and need for this generation in which we live. What must I do to be saved! But our generation cries today, what must I do to succeed! How can I get more money and get more things!

I guess the most difficult problem that we face trying to be Christians and in the church that we are supposed to be concerned with things that money cannot buy. Faith in God. Discipleship for Jesus Christ. Leadership under the Holy Spirit. A pure high quality of character. Living an unselfish life. Having inner resources of power, in the days of storm. These treasures of the soul - we would get for ourselves and hand them on to our children. But out there in the world, are those tremendous pressures - the ambitions that lead us in another direction. Which holds up and says, now here are some things that money can buy.

*When you need Comfort - Let not your heart be troubled - No Money*

*" " " Power - Acts - Wanted Buy Horse - 8120 Simon offered money*

*Peter - " My Money Perish with Thee - cannot purchase gift of God with "*  
And our young people go out from our churches and schools into the marketplace of the world - and what a roar of applause they get! When they are able to define things in economic terms (Voltaire) said, when it is a question of money, everybody is of the same religion. Well, we believe that's a lie. But when it is a question of money, all men are not of the same religion. (John Milton) gave his life to a case and a cause and he spent his eyesight on writing Paradise Lost - and he received only 10 pounds. And Bethoven made a disappointing fee for his 9th Symphony. Such men who created things. And Spinoza who lived in Holland - very humble and a poor living polishing lenses. And yet, he thought highly of God. And Louis XIV offered him a pension. If he would dedicate one book to his majesty. He did not believe in Louis - so in poverty - he continued to live in that way.

A great preacher in New Zealand was told by the authorities, if he continued

his liberal course, that his salary would be dropped. To which he wrote back, you can get very good fish here in the Bay. And I know a place in the woods where you can dig up roots that you can eat.

*Dr. Royal Sura May - 79*  
*You could live on less - others have to*  
*Annual U.S. income per person \$6,995.00 Spain 2,663.00 Uruguay 1,237.00*  
*Taiwan 900.00 Peru 518.00 Thailand 351.00 Korea 209.00*  
*America is Rich compared to most.*

When it is a question of money - all men are not of the same religion.

When you think of Judas and his covetousness for money, and you compare him with Jesus Christ - what a difference.

Think of a business man who sacrificed gain and position and yet the temptation is terrific to say - what must we do to succeed. And define success in financial terms. We need men and women who are not for sale more than anything else in the world today. In the pulpit, in business, in public life. Men who are not for sale - but on only one condition, can such men and women come and that is - when they come to the point in life where they dwell upon things that money cannot buy.

A young man came to his pastor one day and said to him - sir, I am in love with two girls and am undecided which one to ask to marry me. What would you do? The wise old pastor answered, since you love both of them equally - I would simply go to one and ask her to marry me. If she refused, then I would go to the other. The young man took his advice and the end of the sad tale is - that both of them turned him down. His trouble was that there was no concentration in his effort. To win a friend and marry one. He simply learned in a practical sort of way, what Jesus was talking about in his Sermon on the Mount. That it was impossible for a man to keep the heart centered on two objects at the same time.

Two masters will contradict each other. One will say, my son - give me thy heart. The other will say, no, give it to me. One will say be content with such

things as you have, the other will say no - get all you can in any way that you can while you can.

ONE will say be loving, while the other will say - no, it belongs to me.

And so we will be frustrated in pleasure and conscience. No man can serve two masters. He will hate the one or love the other.

I read a statement that was made by a woman about a close friend of hers. She said it is not difficult to think of her as being in a spiritual world. Since everything she greatly cared for could easily be transferred.

Stand for a moment before the cross of Christ. We cannot pay for that nor for the life that led up to it, nor for the sacrifice that was there made on the cross. Such a free gift of life moves us into a place where it is unpurchaseable and we are the children of such living. We are benefactors of all that is fine. So the weight of the Gospel points home - the truth we have been talking about. It is a good thing to have money and the things that money can buy. But it is a good thing to check up once in awhile and make sure that we have not lost the things that money cannot buy.

I'll close with this story of Dr. Walter Lewis Wilson who was a M. D. who told of an experience that happened to a banker that was - or that he knew, in the afternoon

meeting of the little mission hall were 18 ladies and one gentleman. It was just a little Bible class he said, that he was conducting. And, there were a few faithfuls that he depended on to attend. Though the weather was bad. The gentleman was a banker - he was about 70 years old. And he sat there beside of a charming young woman - who was very attractive. He later discovered that it was the banker's wife. And she was a Christian girl. And that she was a wonderful follower of Christ. At the end of his lesson that day, the Doctor asked if anyone had a question. Someone asked a question how to be saved and feel that I am saved. I would like to know that. Well, while he was answering that question, this man was a prominent banker was listening to it. He was not a man of the church and he paid little attention to religious matters. At the close of the class, he said to the Doctor, I wish you would come over to my house and have a little talk about some of these things. I am not clear about all of this on the way of salvation. I feel a little restlessness in my soul. He gave his address - and the next afternoon at 3 o'clock at the appointed time - he stopped by this home. He was ushered into the parlor. There was rich furnishings - beautiful things that only money could buy. He was greeted and then very quickly the man opened up his heart to him. He told him something about the distress - he had wealth, he had things, but he had no heart or feeling for the things of the Lord. He told of the sleepless nights that he had had. And the various ailments that had come to him. The disappointments, his sorrow. His unhappiness.

The Doctor asked him whether he had ever known the value of the personal work of Jesus Christ. He spoke to him as he would have talked to a little child. And he reminded him that he would put his watch in the hands of the watch maker - should it have a problem. Or his auto, to a mechanic - and he says, you have the privilege of taking your soul to the Saviour. And in all of his 70 years, he had never realized that fact, that the Lord Jesus could do anything for him. He only thought of religious exercises. He had looked at the rituals in various churches.

He had thought of a Christian life of activity as utterly unfit for him. But upon seeing this (need) - then, the Doctor turned to the work of Christ.

And he read, 'the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins. Mark 2:10.  
He urged him to come to the Lord Jesus for forgiveness. He read to him I Peter 3:18  
'Christ also hath once offered for sin - the just, or the unjust - that he might  
bring us to Christ. To God. And since Christ came to do this and finish the work,  
he urged him to trust the Saviour. Then he read for him Acts 13:38-39 'be it known  
unto you, therefore brethren, that through this man is preached the forgiveness of  
sins. And by him, all that believe are justified. From all things from which ye  
could not be justified of the law of Moses.

Now the Scripture helped him very much to see that Jesus Christ is so full and  
complete. They spent an (hour and fifteen minutes) going over passages. Looking for  
God's plan. The Holy Spirit had already convicted the man. Of his need, and now  
was revealing to him, the one who could meet that need.

Having explained these Scriptures, the Doctor said to him - Christ Jesus wants  
you just as you are. You have tried everything else to no avail. (If you will trust  
the Saviour and make him your own, he will give you the peace that you want. He will  
blot out all of your sins and make you his very own.

This happy event took place - he turned his heart to the Lord of Glory, Jesus  
Christ, and trusted him! His heart found peace at once - the battle was over. And  
there was a calm quiet faith that began to reign in his life. And he felt as  
(Matt. 11:28) says, come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give

You rest. The truth of the matter is, here was a man who had everything that money could buy. But he did not have the things that money cannot buy. But by taking and receiving Christ. So Isaiah says, without your money, and without Christ - if you are thirsty - why not come.