

## Melva's Corner



### Where Is Your Heart?

Tapping the Source of Power

**Central Truth: The Lord is still out there in the multitudes!**

The sun rises and the sun sets. It makes its rounds each day. What has it seen? Though there is a great difference in the scenes over which it passes on its daily course, there are patterns which do not seem to change. In every country there are the rich and the poor. When Jesus said, "The poor you have with you always," (Mark 14:7) He was not limiting His pronouncement to Judea. It was a fact that would span both distance and time. Even as the Rich Man was little aware and undoubtedly unmoved by the plight of Lazarus, sitting in misery at his gate and desiring only the crumbs that fell from his table, many today with wealth to spare look the other way when poverty shows its hollow eyes and bloated bellies.

We would not deny that there are those who constantly and sacrificially pursue the benefit of the poor, but they find great resistance as they seek aid from a world blinded by its own selfishness and dying from its own overindulgence. One of the least watched programs on television is one which graphically portrays the plight of those human wretches huddled together in desperate situations, teetering on the brink of starvation. Hollow-eyed and bone-thin, they are unwanted reminders of man's inhumanity to his fellows. Those who with loud cries denounce the atrocities of the prison camps of World War II, turn a deaf ear to the cries of hungry children in an unfair and uncaring world.

In the United States, wearing bracelets with the letters WWJD on them became a fad. These initials stood for the phrase, "What Would Jesus Do?" Many are reminded of the acts of morality which Jesus showed by His life of purity, but few appear to be stirred by His most pointed judgment. Depicting the final judgment, Jesus sums up the lives of those blessed by

the Father and those cursed for eternity. Their acts bear little resemblance to the mighty works of holiness so touted by many religious leaders in our day. Rather, His judgment fell on the simplest of things. "I was hungry, I was thirsty, I was a stranger, I was naked, I was sick, I was in prison." Heaven and hell hung on how one responded to these situations. Did they help or did they ignore? That was the test. The protest from both sides was, "When did we see You . . . ?" And the Lord's response was, "It was what you did to the least of these that was done to Me."

It still is! The Lord is still out there in the multitudes, hungry and faint and poor. Have you fed Him? Did you give Him a drink? How would He judge you if you stood before Him today?

As long as there are people doing without the basic necessities of life in our world, godliness demands contentment and gratitude of us. It demands that we praise God for all the good things that he gives us, and it demands that we learn to say "no" to that voice inside that continually demands more, and better, and to eventually choke it down. If we have learned the habit of avarice, godliness demands repentance. And if we have been blinded and deafened by our plenty to the crushing needs of so many around us, godliness demands that we open our eyes and ears.



The fact is that there are just too many people in our world without the basic essentials of life. For a few of us in one of the most prosperous countries on the planet, how can we be anything but content? We must be content, because discontent dishonors the God who has given us so much. And beyond that, we must be content because greed leads us to spend our lives enriching ourselves while ignoring the predicament of people who really know what want is. When we're content, we see how much we have and are willing to help those who have less.

When we're not, all we can see is what we want and feel so sure that we need.

Is it me, or is there something just vaguely embarrassing about the excitement with which the rest of the world accepts what America throws away? What if, instead of our cast-offs and hand-me-downs, the Body of Christ committed to generosity that was a bit more sacrificial? What do you think pleases the Lord more: a church full of well-dressed, well-groomed, people in new clothes and new cars? Or a church full of people — content with what they have been given — who have put off buying new clothes and new cars so that they can share their abundance with folks who don't have the essentials?

I think I know the answer to that, and I think you do, too.

The sun still rises, the sun still sets and in its course it passes over the acts of man, but it is not what the sun sees that we must be concerned about, it is what the Son sees, and He sees it all!

### **Scriptural References:**

**Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life (I Timothy 6:17-19)**