

WHAT IS IT WORTH TO YOU?

Lk 10: 38-42

INTRODUCTION:

- A. For the most part we approach situations with the attitude of what's in it for me or how can I get the most benefit
- B. We generally want the best out of life and want to know which way is best or easiest to follow
- C. We know in material realm "the better" is usually really cheaper in the long run and may not be the easiest
- D. Most times it's not a question of whether we want "the best" but whether we are willing to "pay the price"
- E. In the Spiritual realm all right thinking people want the "better" yet only a few are willing to pay the price.
- F. We have a real problem in the material realm because there is no real standard to go by (cloth, metal, jewels, etc.)
- G. However, in the spiritual realm the scriptures clearly show one way is best in the long run (eternity) and it doesn't take an especially skilled person to see the way

DISCUSSION:

I. **BETTER TO FEAR (RESPECT) THE LORD Prov 15:16**

- A. Parable of the merchant Matt 13:45,46
 - 1. Gave all he had for pearl of great price
 - 2. Jesus made a spiritual application
- B. The rich farmer Lk 12:16-21
 - 1. Had great possessions
 - 2. Could not secure salvation
- C. Rich man and Lazarus Lk 16:19-31
- D. Better is little with fear (respect) of the Lord

II. **DO WE APPRECIATE TRUE RICHES Prov 15:17; 16:8,19**

- A. Church at Smyrna Rev 2:9
 - 1. They were poor
 - 2. Yet spiritually rich
- B. Church at Laodicea Rev 3:17
 - 1. Thought they were rich in worldly goods
 - 2. Yet were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked
- C. Better is little with righteousness than great revenues without righteousness Prov 16:8
- D. Present day applications
 - 1. Churches and individuals think material possession (great Gain) is godliness 1Tim 6:3-6
 - 2. People forget they are lacking in that which is profitable unto all things 1Tim 4:8
- E. Remember what Paul said was the fruit of the spirit Gal 5:22-24

III. **WHERE IS YOUR REAL TREASURE Matt 6:19-21**

- A. What is man profited if he gains the whole world and loses his soul Matt 16:26
- B. Lay not up treasures on earth Matt 6:19
 - 1. This does not mean that we cannot have a savings account in the bank
 - 2. But that our values be placed on a higher plain
- C. Indeed, better is little with fear of the Lord than great treasures and trouble therewith Prov 15:16

IV. **THE DETERMINING FACTOR: NOW OR LATER**

- A. Who was better off the rich man or Lazarus Lk 16
 - 1. In this world the rich man
 - 2. In the Long run (eternity) Lazarus
 - 3. Paul said it is far better to be with Christ Phil 1:23
- B. Let's look to the time when this life will be over
 - 1. This life is short Jam 4:14,15
 - 2. In whose shoes would you want to be, in eternity the rich man or Lazarus?
 - 3. Many people will wake up in eternity realizing they didn't seek the better things
 - 4. They didn't fear (respect? God
 - 5. They didn't walk in righteousness

CONCLUSION:

- A. Our sense of values are critically important
 - 1. Do we want the best now
 - 2. Or do we want to be patient and receive the best in eternity
- B. Do you really want the better things in the "long run"
- C. If so, then be like Mary Lk 10:42 and sit at the feet of Jesus, learn his will and do it that so when this life is over you can have "the better things" that is the right to the tree of life Rev 22:14
- D. You surely desire the better part when this life is over, are you willing to pay the price?