

CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD MATERIALISM

Lk. 10:38-42

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Attitude defined as: A mental position with regard to a fact or a state; a feeling or emotion toward a fact or a state
- B. Our attitude is our disposition, actions and reaction: toward problems of life. Attitudes are very important: they control our living, fix our character and determine our destiny
- C. During this season in particular we are bombarded by advertisements for "things" and everyone wants "things"
- D. Christians must have right attitudes. So now let's concern ourselves with our attitude toward materialism.

DISCUSSION:

I. LOT ILLUSTRATES WRONG ATTITUDE

- A. Selfishness and greed Gen. 13:9-11 He traded on Abraham's generosity
 1. Emphasis on Fertile soil, green pastures, water
 2. Did not think about the moral or religious side
 3. Many never consider God when making choices
- B. Caused him to compromise
 1. Pitched toward Sodom - then entered Sodom
 2. Sodom entered him and his family 2Pet 2:7,8
- C. He may have thought like some do today: If I can just get a lot of wealth and become a part of these people maybe I can help them Jhn 15:19
 1. Lot sits in the gate - one of them, possibly leader, maybe a judge
 2. Christians cannot be happy involved in the world because of the conflict 2Cor 6:14-17
 3. Difficult to overcome influence of evil companion: 1Cor 15: 33

II. CAN ROB GOD BECAUSE OF ATTITUDE

- A. The Israelites had Mal 3:8-12
 1. They were keeping the best for themselves
 2. Then giving God the leftovers
- B. We rob God when we fail to give him His due.
 1. In the way we work Eph 6:5-9
 2. In the way we respond to needs of fellowman Matt 25:33-46; 1Tim 6:17,18
 3. In assembling, because of outside interest Heb 10:25
 4. Even in the way we train our children Eph 6:4

III. DETERMINING FACTOR: FOR NOW OR ETERNITY

- A. Sometime a little is better than a lot Prov 15:16
 1. Parable of the merchant Matt 13:45,46
 - a. Gave all he had for pearl of great price
 - b. Jesus made a spiritual application
 2. The rich farmer Lk 12:16-21

- a. Had great possessions
 - b. Could not secure salvation
3. Rich man and Lazarus Lk 15:19-31
4. Sometimes greens are better than steak Prov 15:17
- B. Two contrasting dispositions
 1. Church at Smyrna Rev 2:9 poor; Yet spiritually rich
 2. Church at Laodicea Rev 3:17 Thought they were rich in worldly goods; Yet were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked
 3. Better is little with righteousness than great revenues without righteousness Prov 16:8
- C. Present day applications
 1. Churches and individuals think material possessions (great gain) is godliness 1Tim 6:3-6
 2. Forget they are lacking in what is profitable unto all things 1Tim 4:8

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

- A. What profit is gaining world and lose soul Matt 16:26
- B. Lay not up treasures on earth Matt 6:19
 1. Does not mean we can't have savings account
 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
- D. Who was better off the rich man or Lazarus Lk 16
 1. This life is short Jas 4:14,15
 2. Many in eternity will realize they had wrong attitude toward material things
 3. Remember Jesus said you can't serve God and materialism also Matt 6:24

CONCLUSION:

- A. Mostly we approach situations with attitude of "what's in it for me" or "how to get the most benefit" (not always wrong)
- B. We know in material realm "the better" is usually cheaper in the long run and may not be the easiest
- C. Our sense of value is critically important. Do we really want better things in the "long run"?
- D. If so, be like Mary Lk 10:42 sit at feet of Jesus, learn and do his will then you can have right to tree of life Rev 22:14
- E. Most times is not a question of whether we "want the best" but whether we are willing to "pay the price"