

RED Letters

FAME AND FORTUNE



“Half the world”

Half the world is starving, half the world is overfed.
Half take sleeping pills at night, half don't have a bed.

Half is struggling to live, half is sitting tight.
Which side are you on brother?

Carolyn Hester

Some random facts about our world

- 26 people owned the same as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity.
- 1/7 people are hungry; 1/3 of food is wasted.
- > 300million people worldwide are depressed
- 30% of adults report regularly daydreaming about being famous.

Luke 6: 24-26 (NIV)

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false
prophets.

Woe

- Merriam-Webster: a condition of deep suffering from misfortune, affliction, or grief.
- Similar:
misery/sorrow/distress/wretchedness/sadness
/unhappiness/cursed/damned

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- The values of God's kingdom make a mockery of the world's values.
- Those who seek the kingdom of God will be satisfied. Those who seek their own kingdoms will not

Luke 16 THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

- ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

Luke 16

- ²² “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

Luke 16

- ²⁵ “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

Luke 16

- ²⁷ “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’
- ²⁹ “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

Luke 16

- ³⁰ “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’”
- ³¹ “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

WHAT IS WRONG WITH RICHES??

- Riches take our attention from God to themselves
- Riches draw us to put our hope in them
- The pursuit of riches is insatiable, often to the exclusion of God

THE SOLUTION

Mat 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

- Seek to find out the truth about the world in light of God's Kingdom
- Seek to represent God's Kingdom accurately
- Seek to extend the Kingdom of God

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