

GOD'S JUDGMENT OF OUR WORLD

Note:

- ✓ In this story we imagine that God passes his final judgment, not on an individual, but on our consumerist and globalized society as a whole, on our values, mores and interests.
- ✓ Our Societal values and principles are anti- evangelical and anti-human.
- ✓ Ours is a heartless society, without pity and concern for others.

A PARABLE

The day of retribution will come, when God will give to one and all the rewards deserved for their deeds. Then, God will divide men into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **He will put the sheep at his right and the goats at his left and say to those at his right:**

Come, my dear ones and receive the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the foundation of the world, because

- I was hungry and you fed me!
- I was thirsty and you gave me drink!
- I was a stranger and you received me in your homes!
- I was naked and you clothed me! I was sick and you cared for me!
- I was in prison and you visited me!

I tell you, indeed, whenever you did any of these things to the least of your brothers and sisters, you did it to me! Come now, my friends to the joy of my presence and to the favors of my love!

Then, God will turn to those at his left and say:

- I was hungry and you built "five-star" hotels and luxurious restaurants, cafeterias and delicatessens.
- I was naked and you set up a huge garment industry of superfine fabrics and wears of the choicest and most expensive designs and textures.
- I was sick and you erected super-modern hospitals, posh nursing homes and expensive health centers.
- I was homeless and you built skyscrapers, posh housing complexes, mansions and luxury flats.
- I was lonely and you established Rotary and Lions Clubs, Golf and Turf Clubs and elite social and cultural centers.
- I was illiterate and you built prestigious schools, magnificent colleges, and centers of higher learning and management institutes.
- I cried for social justice and you built charity and beneficence centers where old clothes, free sample medicines and second-hand school books were doled to me.
- I pleaded for my rights and you raised punitive and correctional institutions, jails and reformatory schools.
- I was in need of protection from unjust exploitation and you built engines of destruction: tanks, missiles, bombers, warships, submarines and nuclear weapons.
- I was in need of nothing more than a small country path to meet my friends and communicate with them and you stretched across the distances highways. Air lanes. Sea lanes.
- I longed to pray in the privacy of quiet places of worship and you erected magnificent temples, stupas, mosques and churches. I wanted to communicate with my Creator and you invented pompous, complicated and expensive rituals...

Now, get away from me, you, accursed evil -doers! I do not know you!

Points for Reflection and Discussion.

1. What is the main thrust or intent of this parable?

To bring to light the deep-rooted greed and selfishness rampant in society.

2. How is our society organized and how it works?

The sole aim of nearly all structures and institutions is production of goods and services in favor of the higher-ups for monetary gain, not for human development.

3. Who benefits from the structural organization of our modern society?

Intentionally or unintentionally the entire politico-cultural apparatus tends to serve the interests of the power elites.

4. What could be the percentage of the rich and influential people benefiting from the economical and political situation in India? *Roughly, 25% of the population - the rich and the powerful - lives and thrives at the cost of the remaining 75% - the impoverished, uneducated, and suppressed.*

5. Is our socio economical-political and cultural organization based on the Gospel values? *Our social system is based on premises, values and ideals diametrically opposed to those of the Gospel – gain, ,personal profit, pleasure,*

IDEAS AND APPLICATIONS OF THE PARABLE

- There is progress in the world, no doubt, but the question to be asked is: for whose benefit—for the poor, or for the rich?
- Industry, education, socio-political institutions, cultural and medical centers are geared to serve the interests, of the elite.
- In reality, our economy is planned not so much to satisfy the needs of the Indian masses but the greed of our rich industrialists, big corporations and multinationals..
- The hidden mechanism controlling economic growth is “The capital” searching for “profit” not so much caring for the benefit of the common man.
- Every day, our industry produces more and more sophisticated goods for a smaller and smaller number of people—the privileged few.
- Worse still, the masses are sacrificed to the Moloch of our industry. They are mere cogs in a big soulless machine set in motion by the rich and for the rich.
- Would the 300 million affluent citizens of India attain their “high standard” of living without the sweat, blood, toil and tears of their 900 million poor brothers and sisters?
- This is precisely how the rich become richer and the poor poorer.
- See by yourself from the examples mentioned below who have a finger in the pie in most of the key institutions of our society:
- In education whom do elite colleges, centers of higher learning and research benefit the most?
- In the law-enforcing machinery do the poor and the weak have their rights safeguarded and defended? Who are those playing the losing game?
- In the area of high technology we can boast of space rockets and satellites, atomic power stations and atomic research centers. Whose interests do they serve?
- The interests of the masses of those of the upper crust, the 25 % of the population?
- We have a huge well-trained army and sophisticated weaponry. Whose interests do they defend and protect? The interests of the rich or of those who have nothing to lose and to defend?
- We promote the hotel and tourist industry. Bu, I ask for whose enjoyment?
- We have erected some of the finest hospitals and medical research centers in the East, but millions of our countrymen are dying for lack of the most elementary health services, while in the meantime, we are promoting “Health tourism” for the wealthy of the first world.
- .We have built “high-ways” and “expressways” at great cost to connect our urban metropolises while our countryside is crisscrossed by narrow village roads and cart-tracks in a most deplorable condition.
- We have built some “charitable” and “humanitarian” homes for the poor and the handicapped thus soothing our consciences by doling out alms, old clothes, date-expired drugs and substandard foodstuffs to our unfortunate brothers and sisters
- God cannot but condemn a society like ours that is rooted in greed, inequality, discrimination and injustice!” “Away from me, you evil doers!”