

## THINGS MONEY CANNOT BUY

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### Intent of Story

- ✓ *What's the value of money in relation to happiness?*
- ✓ *Jesus and money, to reflect on the evangelical value of money.*
- ✓ *To realize that money the "idol" of modern man, cannot deliver the goods it promises.*
- ✓ *To be contented with moderate riches and possessions.*
- ✓ *To understand why modern man is so unhappy.*

## JOHNNY AND HIS TROVE

Johnny was a simple and ordinary man. Wealth, he had little in, yet happiness he had in plenty. He was a contented and satisfied person.

One day, on the road, as he passed by a dust-bin, he discovered a bundle of 1000 rupee notes lying in the garbage. In surprise and disbelief, he lifted the treasure and looked at it

.Greedily, he held the notes on his hands and for a while he kept looking at them. His first impulse was to take the money home ...but, on a second thought, he changed his mind and spoke to the notes in this way.

"My dear notes, do I really need you at all to be happy? Till today, I never had you and I have been very happy. On the contrary many of my neighbors loaded with the likes of you, are utterly wretched and unhappy! I do not want to be like them. I rather prefer to be what I am, without you, than to be what they are with you No! No! I have no use of you Then, without more ado, he flung the notes back into the dust-bin.

The notes felt highly insulted. Never in their life had they been treated so shabbily. In anger they shouted at Johnny: "Who do you think you are? You must be a crazy mad man. Till today everybody wanted us, everybody craved for us and you dare spurn us? Don't you know that money can buy everything our world can offer'? Money opens the door to pleasures, prestige and success! Money makes for happiness! Come on pick us up and take us home with you!"

Johnny replied: "Yes, in a way you are right. Money can buy all the things the world can offer, yet money cannot buy the finest things the heart of man pines for. To tell the truth, my heart has been always happy, yet I have never had you."

The notes yelled: "No! It's not true! Tell us what are the things the human heart pines for, that money cannot buy? Come on; tell us what those things are? Tell us! Tell us!"

Calmly and sure of himself, Johnny replied:

"Money can buy for me a golden bed, but not the sound sleep I have!  
Money can buy me the best food, but not the good appetite I enjoy!"

Money can buy me cosmetics, but not the good looks I have!  
 Money can buy me a posh and luxurious house not the happy home I have!  
 Money can buy me sensuous pleasures, not the Inner joy I feel!  
 Money can buy me sex and women, not the faithful and loving wife I have!  
 Money can buy me people, but not the true friends I have!  
 Money can buy, me books, but not knowledge and wisdom!  
 Money can buy me fancy and extravagant clothes, but not personal dignity!  
 Money can even buy for me a first class funeral, but not a happy death  
 In a word, whatever is worthwhile in life and satisfying to the human heart, you money cannot buy!  
 You can only bluff gullible and naive people to believe that you can give, what is not yours! You are a cheat! Stay on, stay on where you belong to, in the dustbin!"  
 And with a chuckle, Johnny happily went on his way.

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT.**

- Money in itself is neither good nor bad. It's God's creature.
- Money is not "be-all" and the "end-all" of life. It's just a means not an end.
- It's up to us to make money a blessing or a curse.
- With money we can do good and evil, all depends on how we value it
- Greed for money is bad.
- The danger of money is not in possessing it, but in being possessed by it!
- A greedy heart is a monster, the more you feed with wealth, the fiercer it grows till it tears us to pieces
- Dissatisfaction with what we have makes us unhappy.
- Money is given to us by God "on trust", to use it, not to hoard it or to squander it.
- We are administrators not owners.
- To believe that we need lots of money to be happy drives happiness away from us.
- We need a reasonable amount of possessions to lead a decent human life, but not wealth and luxuries.
- Poverty, if it means frugality and simple living, is not bad. Destitution is !
- Jesus was neither a destitute, nor a rich man.
- Accepting our lot in life, even if it means being poor, is the secret of happiness.
- The desire to have than others is a hot bed of jealousy and strife.  
Competition is bad, cooperation is right.
- We aren't born to compete, but to cooperate.
- The lust for wealth and the consumerist society we live in, are the source of man's unhappiness.
- Poor self-image very often prompts us to boost our "ego" with status symbols and the trappings of wealth.
- We wrongly, judge others' worth, by what they have, not by what they are!
- Comparing our wealth with that of others begets unhappiness and rivalries.
- The press, the T.V. and the ads that bombard us, brain wash us to believe that money can buy joy, peace, contentment.
- No! It's just a myth, a blatant lie! Don't swallow it, hook, line and sinker!

- By trying to live up to social expectations, we ruin our life.
- Inordinate attachments to what we have are chains that prevent us from being free and Joyous.
- The loss of Gospel values – simplicity, humility and detachment - fill the world with misery.
- "It will be very hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of heaven.
- A High Standard of Life is far better than a High Standard of Living."
- In today's world everything has a price, nothing has value.
- What has real value cannot be bought
- What can be bought has little or no value
- Values are sold for pleasure, wealth and expediency.