

## It's A Sin To Be Poor

Nothing degrades Truth Principles more than to think of it as a get rich quick scheme. You know, where you spend about fifteen minutes listening and begin demonstrating dollars out the wazzuu and a Rolls Royce is parked in front of the Bainbridge Island Waterfront estate.

This is not a get rich quick scheme but there should not be one student of truth that is ever without anything.

A man named Paul Brunet who wrote a book called "Master Meditations" said it this way. The deadliest sin of all is the sin of being poor. Charles Fillmore said it too. "It's a sin to be poor."

Being rich comes from a wealth of abundant mental attitudes. If a group of us get together and pray for something for each of us, some will experience the desired good and some will not. This is not the activity of a capricious God. Scripture assures us that God is no respecter of persons. When I pray for something and demonstrate my prayer it is not because God likes me better. It is because my thinking is aligned with the truth. Each one of us can have the realization of whatever we want. We already have what we have thought into being.

Some people mistakenly think that with these teachings they can take whatever they wish. We don't take what we wish we attract to us what is like our thoughts. We must become more if we desire to attract more. As we recognize more and more that the Universe is a storehouse of abundance, we draw more of that abundance to us.

It is also important to realize that it is right for us to live graciously and abundantly, to have our bills paid, to have more than enough to meet our needs, to know that if we want something, a car, a new suit or a dress, we have the means for it.

It's probably a good time for me to tell you that I'm not just talking about money when I say it's a sin to be poor. I'm talking about the consciousness of abundance. I'm talking about that which completely eliminates even the very idea of being poor. There is really only one law and the way we understand it is this, we sow it, we reap it. An idea is a seed sown in mind. It must be nurtured to bring forth its harvest.

When we have what is called a 'demonstration' we sit down and say this is what I want to demonstrate. We multiply that idea and from that multiplication the demonstration comes into visibility. The abundance comes as a result of the idea that it's right for us to have it, it's right to be able to live comfortably and graciously.

Everyone has a desire to live comfortably and sometimes it appears that other people's pastures grow greener grass. We must be careful and conscious enough not to sow the thought that they are don't deserve it for whatever reason we come up with. When you criticize another's prosperity you are sowing a seed of lack into your own life that will be multiplied and brought into being.

In our culture we are quick to judge other people. We are quick to say that this one is money-hungry and that one is cheap. Without it they are worthless and if they strike riches suddenly, we call them lucky. All of these cliches reveal something about the person who speaks them or thinks them. It reveals a basic misunderstanding about the nature of being. It shows that they do not realize that it is a sin to be poor.

Some of you were raised in traditional churches where they taught you that riches are sinful, except for the church's riches. Some of you were raised to believe that God punishes rich people and makes them pay in the afterlife for the pie they are eating now. Some people have been raised to believe that they will through lack and deprivation please God who will then reward them with streets paved of gold and an abundant afterlife. I want you to note that abundance even in the traditional form of religion is desirable, the question is when and where. It's like candy. We say in truth good and plenty. We say now and later. The old way of thinking is later. Well if the truth can set you free of anything it is the belief that you have to wait for your Good.

Well, I'm here to tell you the truth that Jesus lived and taught. His was not a life a deprivation. He didn't teach that we must be deprived either. He taught that it is the Father's good pleasure to

give us the kingdom. He taught us to pray believing. He showed us through example that it's a sin to be poor.

Now when I use the word sin, I'm not talking about sin the way you may be taught to think of sin. I'm not sending you to hell cause I don't have to. If you are living a life of poverty, you are already in hell. No, that's not what I mean when I use the word sin.

When I use the word, I am talking about the word in its original meaning, which is to miss the mark. It was a term used by Greek archers. You missed the target. What is the target? Abundance. Plenty. Wanting not. Why? Because you miss the mark if are not living an abundant life. The mark that I am talking about is the mark of success put within each and every one of us. It is the fingerprint of God and it identifies us as His own. The mark of success is upon you and when you are poor you miss the mark. Poverty is a sin.

Everything in Scripture indicates that the kingdom of heaven is open to us. "Abundance is thine" is how God puts it. "I have meat to eat that you know not of." It's there and as one of the teachings of truth we say that the world, the Universe, the Mind of God that we are using individually is not open to limitation but to abundance of all good things. It is open to an abundance of love, an abundance of beauty and health. It is open to the abundance of happiness and joy. Abundance covers it all. We are just as poor if we are poor in health and have worldly goods as we are if we don't have any worldly goods.

Abundance is thine. If I were to define it, I would say that it is the ability to love, to be loved, to be happy. Abundance is being able to do the things that we want to do at the time we want to them- the ability to have a wealth of creative ideas and creative thought, the ability to have a wealth of friends and people you love and that love you. Abundance is a part of living and should be for every person in this teaching.

"It shall be done unto you according to your belief." When the Master said this he was teaching that it is knowing that stands in front of the appearances and projects an unformed idea into that world and thus multiplies it abundantly.

We spend time praying for what we haven't got and don't realize that we giving power to what we haven't got.

Think of how many times you have prayed to get something. The minute you do this you are saying that you don't have it. And you can't write a check on the bank of God and expect God to cover it at Key bank. It doesn't work that way.

With an abundant consciousness, where ever you go there is an abundance of everything. You've got money in the bank. There is an abundance of flowers in your garden. There is an abundance of peace and happiness. Never underestimate the power of peace to bring abundance into your experience.

Remember that as you give you receive. With an abundance of giving we know that there is no need that will not be filled. Let me give you an example.

In Palestine there are two seas. There is the Sea of Galilee, whose shores Jesus walked along, which is fresh water. It has fish and foliage. Children play alongside it or they used to. The water comes from the hills and is good to drink. Life abounds. It is truly an abundant situation.

But the Sea of Galilee flows on south into another sea, which has been called the Dead Sea. It's the same water, but there are no fish in it, no life and neither man no beast will drink it. The River Jordan flows into both of these seas. The Sea of Galilee receives and gives out, and as such it continues to receive fresh water, the abundance of that water from the mountains. It gives and lives. The Dead Sea gives nothing and the name (Dead) says it all.

In order to receive it, we give it wasn't just invented by ministers as a way to collect at Sunday service. It's the truth of how things operate. As you give, it comes back to you abundantly. It gives and lives. That, which does not give, receives not and dies. Simple, easy to understand and directly to the point which is how God operates in our lives, bodies and affairs.

This law of multiplication implies that the increase is of something that already exists. We can't get it unless we already have it. In other words, we can't become prosperous until we realize that we are already prosperous. What we're talking about is growth and not invention.

This is what Jesus taught. To them that hath, more is given, to them that hath not what little they have will be taken. It seems unfair unless you think about the law and how it operates. Each according to its own kind. Lack thoughts and thoughts of limitation and sickness multiply accordingly.

The doctrine of use is this. What you use uses you. IF you use the principle of abundance, you will be used by this principle to demonstrate its infallibility. The Universe never says no. It says YES. If you walk around thinking about what you don't have, the Universe says yes, you can be poor if you want to. And you become abundantly poor.

Conversely, that which you don't use abuses you and you lose it. To grow spiritually we must nourish ourselves with this teaching. We must sustain ourselves with the knowledge that it is true. And we must remember that where-ever we go our environment reflects that feeling.

If you are around people who are constantly poor mouthing, get away and stay away from those people. States of mind are contagious.

Some of you might be asking yourself, well if we don't pray and ask for what we want how are supposed to get it? We can get the abundance that is our spiritual inheritance simply by praising what we already have. They will in turn multiply themselves. That is why we bless our offering. We must use our power of imagination to see the beauty, truth, health, love or whatever. We must begin seeing it in our minds and being thankful for the vision. It is a passport to the land of abundance and we all have one.

Now you might be thinking, I'm not good at seeing things. We'll thinking about them creates word pictures and that will do nicely, thank you very much.

Cicero said that there are six mistakes that we make.

1. We delude ourselves with the idea that personal gain is made by crushing others.
2. We insist on worrying about things that cannot be changed or corrected.
3. We insist that a thing is impossible because we feel that we can't accomplish it.
4. We refuse to set aside trivial preferences.
5. We neglect the development and refinement of the mind and do not acquire the habit of reading and study.
6. We attempt to make others live as we do.

So how can we do it? Constructive thinking increases and expands. Destructive thinking decreases and deteriorates. Repetitive thinking and conforming to the way things have always been is a trip through boredom .Boredom is a short walk to destruction. So it's obvious that we must begin to think constructively.

We must begin to practice the spiritual principles. Practice thinking constructively. Think of something that you have put off doing. Sit down and write a list of all the ways that you can think of to get this thing done. If you are experiencing lack or limitation, think of all the possible way that you can be prospered.

List the things, experiences, the friends, and the people that you really want. Don't dream and set up fantasies. Be definite. Be clear. Examine your motives. Practice reversing all the destructive ideas with the abundant, constructive ideas. List the beliefs you accept and the ones you reject. If you have accepted the belief in limitation or lack, or being without in any department of your life, edit the list. Make a conscious decision to switch the belief. Practice thinking what you want to think and not what someone thinks you ought to think. Imagine all the enjoyable, active things. Think about new experiences, new reactions, and new self-esteem. Limber up your thinking. If you have been rigid about anything, lighten up. Stiff thinking is a sin too because it is the thinking of the poor.

This can be simple and easy when we stop thinking that it is hard. Everything moves in circles. When we give we do so and it is given back to us good measure, shaken together pressed down and running over. We can stop the flow by not believing and acting on our belief. We have to believe, to know that this is an abundant Universe. We have to know that we are not just in God or of God or with God. These ideas imply separation. We are an extension of God and expression of God and of an abundant Universe. There is joy in thinking this idea that is in itself abundance.

The abundance of life, peace and security are all around us. God cannot contain any limitation. We increase our abundance as we accept the idea of our abundance. When we realize that lack or limitation is a personally imposed attitude then we have taken the first step to abundance, materially, spiritually and physically.

Repeat after me

I identify myself now with the infinite source of all supply.

I know that I am led, directed and sustained by God.

I release any idea that God is punishing or imposing limitation upon by being or affairs.

I expanding daily in wisdom, understanding, and acceptance of God's expression through me as an individual. The words I am speaking now open all doors for my ever- increasing abundance. I am divinely prospered in all ways of life. And so it is.