

## ***Empty Consolation***

*But woe unto you that are rich! For ye have received your consolation.*

*Luke 6:24*

The teachings of the Bible cover a wide range of topics and always emphasize the importance of the eternal over the temporary. From the importance of taking time to search out a firm foundation on which to build our life so it will not collapse when trials arise, to reminding us that the saving of our soul is more valuable than all the riches in the world, the scriptures support the superiority of valuing the eternal over the temporal. As believers, we should realize that our earthly house of this tabernacle will one day dissolve, but we have a building of God, *an house not made with hands*, which is eternal in the heavens.

In today's text, the Lord Jesus is teaching the contrast between now and then, that is, the temporal and the eternal. He warns that the rich, should they choose to only invest in this life, will only find their comfort here. Riches provide the opportunity to secure material possessions. If an individual has enough money, there is a seemingly limitless supply of material goods they can acquire. Unfortunately for those who find their comfort in their temporary possessions, they will find no deep and lasting consolation in times of trouble. The flesh may find some enjoyment in some newly purchased item such as a new car or house or worldly trinkets, but will that new possession satisfy them when they are suddenly confronted with their mortality? The value of material possessions will vaporize when someone is faced with eternity as they desperately cling to life. If the deceived rich man in Luke 12 built a thousand barns to house all of his goods, that would still be void of any true consolation in the hour of his soul's greatest need. King Saul's army, Belshazzar's kingdom, Ahab's ill-gotten vineyard, Herod's throne, and Judas' silver proved powerless to vanquish their fears at the end of their lives. Whatever consolation could be found in their possessions was quickly erased when their time on earth came to an end. Like the foolish man who built his house on the sand, there have been many who failed to find any comfort when the storms of life destroyed their possessions.

As believers, we have things in our life that bring a level of comfort to us. Family and friends are a tremendous help and support when difficulties arise, but all the comfort we receive from them can only reach so far. True comfort is derived from a Source that we cannot physically see or touch. Our faith in our God and Savior is the greatest consolation to our souls. His promises to never leave or forsake us and that He will be our Good Shepherd who will guide us through the valley of the shadow of death will bring all the consolation we will ever need. In this life, the Lord is certainly our comfort, and when the day comes for us to step onto Heaven's shore, we will finally enjoy the eternal consolation that the Lord provides.

J. Ekis