

WHERE ARE THE JEWELS?

A woman, making arrangements with an artist to sit for her portrait, said to him, "Although I have only a few items of jewelry; nevertheless, I want this painting to show me wearing diamond rings and earrings, an emerald brooch, and a multi-strand necklace of pearls that look like they are priceless.

"I can do this all right," said the artist. "But do you mind telling me why you want me to paint a portrait of you in this fashion?" The woman replied, "You see, if I die first, and my husband marries again, I want his second wife to go out of her mind trying to find out where he hid the jewels."

Has it ever occurred to you that life is a lot like this? Have you ever wondered why you have not gotten your fair share of things? Does it bother you that others have nice things....like expensive cars or homes, or other possessions, and you have to scrape through life just to get a little?

Money and possessions come to people through many means. Some are born into wealth. Some are the beneficiaries of large insurance policies. Some obtained their wealth through hard work and dedication to a job. Others have received this world's goods through the possession of unusual intelligence, beauty, or talent.

The important thing is that we don't measure human worth by material gain. Life is not about getting and having; it's about being rich toward God (Luke 12:16-21). When a person discovers the reason he or she has been given life, that is the greatest possession of all. Life is about glorifying God (Luke 12:22-40). How truly applicable are these words for us today (1 Tim.6:6-12): *"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."*

May God help us all to be more content with fulfilling our life's purpose and less preoccupied with the pursuit of things! Let us pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness!

Brian