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A Spiritual Lesson In Toon Language:
Lesson 24

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(In God I Trust And Write)

Series: Tom And Jerry

Episode: The Million Dollar Cat

Topic: Spiritual Contentment VS. The Love
Of Money

Introduction:

As the title of this lesson indicates, we are talking about both spiritual contentment and the love of money. We are discussing which one is better. This may even no doubt be easy to answer on the surface. However, this is hard to put into practice. This in a sense can be made into an extension of the Greed lesson, but this in my opinion is a slightly different lesson. For the Greed lesson look at <http://toonspirit.net/resources/13.pdf>

For this lesson though, I used the Tom and Jerry episode **The Million Dollar Cat** to illustrate this lesson. It looks painfully obvious after this cartoon that the love of money isn't worth it. We are showing definitely why we should follow the Bible's teachings and heed the quote: **Buy the truth and do not sell it.**

Scriptures Used Include: Proverbs 23: 23, Matthew 13: 44-46;

Matthew 19: 16-30; Proverbs 15: 16-17; Matthew 6: 19-24; Psalms

I) Opening Prayer

II) Opening Discussion: What is your idea of the word contentment? Is this the same as joy or happiness?

III) Introductory Bible Study: Proverbs 23: 23, Matthew 13: 44-46. One passage talks about buying the truth, the other passage talks about the Kingdom of Heaven like buying a pearl. Why do you think that Jesus links buying a pearl to the Kingdom of Heaven? What do you think about the words buy the truth and do not sell it?

IV) Cartoon Show: We are going to look at a cartoon that talks about a situation in which contentment isn't found because of the circumstances. I will now show the Tom And Jerry short **The Million Dollar Cat**.

V) Bible Study I: Matthew 19: 16-30

VI) Discussion And Analysis I: In this lesson, we will say that Tom and Jerry are doing what they are supposed to do In God's sight. This even includes the professional "William Tell" game that Tom is playing with Jerry. Enter the telegram that Tom

receives here. How did Tom react to the telegram and how did Tom's personality change? How would you react? Would you change who you are physically and/or spiritually? In short order, we see that Jerry isn't very nice to Tom. Why? What would you do in real life if you had a problem like Tom has here?

VII) Bible Study II, Analysis And

Discussion: If we look at Proverbs 15: 16-17, we see something interesting to answer the question correctly.

The Bible states:

Pr 15:16 Better a little with the fear of the
LORD
than great wealth with turmoil.

Pr 15:17 Better a meal of vegetables where
there is love
than a fattened calf with hatred.

In the main scripture we are studying, Jesus is talking to the rich young man and the man is sad. **Why?** The man according to Jesus isn't content with the right thing and is spiritually poor. This rich young man loves money and therefore is discontented with Jesus' words. However, Jesus' words are the very means for him to be truly content spiritually. On top of this, Jesus has the words for true general spiritual contentment for us.

The Bible States:

Mt 6:19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

Mt 6:20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Mt 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Mt 6:22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.

Mt 6:23 But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

Mt 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Linking to the cartoon we just watched, why is the scripture in Proverbs and this scripture about the treasure in Heaven relevant to us and to you personally?

It is clear that Jesus says in these scriptures that when we totally sell out to Him and His ways, we will have eternal life because Jesus says so. God doesn't lie, so we know this is true.

VIII) Closing Comments And Food For Thought:

What have we learned? How will you apply this lesson to your life? I want to leave you with yet another scripture. It is probably the most familiar besides John 3:16, or the Golden Rule. It is Psalms 23. It is the biggest picture of spiritual contentment that I see in the Bible. Just think!! If we sell ourselves out to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we will have nothing but this in our future; not even death can destroy it, nor your enemies, or even Satan (the biggest enemy of them all)!!!

The Bible States:

Ps 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

Ps 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

Ps 23:3 he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Ps 23:4 Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

Ps 23:5 You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Ps 23:6 Surely goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD

forever.

IX) Closing Prayer

