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A Spiritual Lesson In Toon Language 45a

By God And Richie Heinlein

(In God I Trust And Write)

Series: The Muppet Show, The Simpsons

Episodes: # 106 (Jim Nabors), Sex And Violence—
The Muppet Show and Springfield (Or, How I
Learned To Stop Worrying And Love Legalized
Gambling)—The Simpsons

Topic: The Seven Deadly Sins I: Avarice

Introduction:

We are starting a seven-part lesson series on “The Seven Deadly Sins”. This is a Catholic doctrine (In my opinion somewhat flawed) that these seven sins are the only kinds of sins that are punishable by Hell forever. Every other sin, (the way I understand according to them) will only send you to purgatory for a set amount of time. Now in the Catholic’s defense, I must say that these seven are arguably the most addictive kinds of sins and may have a higher probability of causing a soul’s being lost (of course because sincere repentance isn’t given in Jesus’ name). This is not to say that our Catholic brothers are not saved (we are talking about believers here too) but this is a fairly interesting topic (in a good way) nonetheless and I felt led to make a lesson set out of this topic and will be very in depth.

Scriptures used for “Avarice” include: Matthew 6: 19-24; 18: 8-9

I) Opening Prayer

II) We are opening a special series of lessons involving sinful actions. Today we are talking about avarice. This is typically known as “greed”

What is avarice or greed? Basically, avarice is an unhealthy and insatiable want in excess of something. This can mean anything from power or wealth to unbridled selfishness of any type. A person that would be this way will never get enough of the thing he/she is addicted to. This doesn't include habits that are addictive that we want to get rid of necessarily, but things that are craved without remorse that we are looking at more.

I am going to show something different in this lesson than usual. The Muppet Show is a

variety show that originally aired in the mid 1970's to the early 1980's and they had some very intricate and bizarre comedy sketches. One of these was in the original pilot of the series. We are going to discuss some of the scenes of this pilot called **Sex And Violence**. In this original episode they have a "Seven Deadly Sins Pageant". We are going to discuss the scenes in this sketch and their Biblical roots.

III) **Sex And Violence # I—Avarice** (Teacher Note: Markers 1:17-1:54; 3:58-434); **Jim Nabors** (Teacher Marker 1:32-3:43)

IV) **What do you see in these clips?**

We can see in the first part that Sam the Eagle is suspicious of the pageant idea. **Why? What do you think about Dr. Teeth's attitude?**

When "Avarice" comes he is obviously addicted to money and can't get enough.

The Bible talks against greed very strongly. I am using a scripture that I have used in the past, but I am spinning it much differently.

The Bible States In Matthew 6: 19-24

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.

God wants us to be free of such a trap. This is harder to do than a lot of people realize. Addictions of this sort and the addictions like the rest of the sin issues in this series are everywhere and are hard to dodge.

Surprisingly, we can learn a positive lesson from Homer from “The Simpsons”.

V) Cartoon Clip: Springfield (Or, How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love Legalized Gambling)

VI) What do you see in this clip? Homer is actually doing a very good job at helping Marge with an addiction like this. He put his foot down and took control of this. This addiction could have torn the family apart, but instead they have another chance to be together instead of neglect and being distant.

The Bible States:

Mt 18:8 If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.

Mt 18:9 And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

This is tough stuff coming from our Lord Jesus, but this is necessary because if we are so distracted by a problem like avarice we won't do much for the Kingdom of God and we will be very selfish on average neglecting important things.

VII) What have we learned and how will we apply it to our lives?

We most importantly need to not be distracted by things that don't matter as much and be attentive to God and His ways. This means being unselfish with time and our resources which does include our money sometimes. This means that we need to discern the way of truth and be mindful of others' needs and sometimes their wants as well. Once we learn this, we will be more of what God wants us to be and less like "Avarice" and Dr. Teeth.

VIII) Closing Prayer