

Unjust Gain

“Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay is the man who gains riches by unjust means. When his life is half gone, they will desert him, and in the end he will prove to be a fool.” (Jeremiah 17:11).

I shed tears for you, and this gives me the courage to speak about what I receive from the Lord. Who is smart among you to listen and discern? He who sees the future will correct his ways! I am sad about what I see and grieve about the future of people who are doing injustice. I walk in the street, visit several shops, and I hear the same story from those who are working. *“We agree to work for certain number of hours, but we are spending more time, 8 hours became 12 hours, salaries became less than what we read in the contract, no promotion but additional job description and only broken promises is what we receive.”*

Have you heard? Many workers are unpaid. They do not receive their due salaries from their masters and employers on time. **“The worker deserves his wages.” (1 Timothy 5:18b)** Master, why do you abuse your workers? What do you benefit from unjust gain? Listen to the word of God: **“Look! the wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty” (James 5:4)**

Have you seen? Do you watch on TV the promotional advertisements of many products of different companies and establishments? Do you find waves and streamers of announcements, colorful brochures and catalogues of products or services? They have one thing in common. They offer big discounts but inflate the actual facts or descriptions in order to increase their income. The Bible says, **“He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little.” (2 Corinthians 8:15)**

Have you realized? Under the sea you can find many amateur divers but only the professionals are mentioned. Behind the scene you discover many crews but only the actors and actresses are known. People are climbing on the shoulders of other people, getting famous names by the hard works of others. The farmers plough the ground, sow the seeds, care for the plants, but the harvest will go to others; they took the fruit that do not belong to them. They claim the achievement sown by others.

You find people who squeeze others and lord over them. They pull the chairs from the bottom of others and keep to themselves positions by human force -this is corruption. They cancel the rights of their workers; disregard their experiences and skills in order to keep them behind. So honour and reward is kept for them but this is unjust gain.

The above scripture quoted from the book of Jeremiah, the prophet speaks about the partridge. This kind of bird looks and lays over eggs that do not belong to her. Another bird has toiled and laid the eggs with pain and hard toil. But the new partridge even fights with the real mother, put her aside and sits on the eggs. Whatever new chicks would hatch belongs to her. She claims to be the mother partridge, forgetting the one who laid the eggs. The new mother struggles and toils to feed the chicks, to protect them and teach them how to fly. Ultimately these chicks when fully grown will fly and abandon the mother. What benefit the mother partridge would have?

Those who gain honour or riches by unjust means spend great effort fooling themselves and others. But eventually they will not enjoy what they gain. All their labour for injustice gain will be in vain. They would be like fools having no rest and peace until suddenly they lose their fame or authority.

Jesus preached to the people and said: **“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)** **“Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes, your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire.” (James 5:1-3)** ***Do you know why?***

1. **Because you don't know the way:** You know all ways and means to gain riches and fame but you don't know Jesus who died on the cross for your sins, and who can lead you to lasting riches and eternal glory. **Jesus answered, “I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)** **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)**
2. **Because you neglect the way:** You know the way but your eyes are fixed to other things. You know Jesus but still your life is corrupted by dross. You are living only to satisfy your body. **“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36)**

My dear and beloved, give careful thought to your ways. If the message speaks to you pray to God this prayer. *Father God in heaven I come to you in the name of Jesus who dies for me on the cross to give me eternal life. Cleanse me Lord from greed and from sickness of the unjust gain, help me to be just with the people, giving them their rights and what due for them. Teach me your ways O lord, guide me in the paths of righteousness. This is my prayer in Jesus name. Amen.*

