

Mutual Fund in Heaven

A remarkable ceremony was conducted on March 27, 2009 to celebrate my retirement from the Navy as a chaplain for 25 years. After I formally requested permission to go ashore from the Commanding Officer, I was piped “over the side” by six side-boys with four bells and the Boatswain’s pipe, a distinctive honor in the naval tradition.

My experience in the Navy reminds me of the rich young ruler in the Bible since the Navy culture is a rich young ruler culture. The demanding physical fitness as well as the finance and power behind the rank structure groom us to be rich young rulers.

Such a man asked Jesus, “Good Rabbi, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 18:18) Jesus told him to sell all his belongings and give to the poor then go and follow him. Why did Jesus demand so much from this young man?

Jesus did not have prejudice against rich people. He was just trying to teach the young man that the essence of the Commandants was love. If he had love in his heart, he would use his wealth, time, and power to help the poor.

One important lesson I learned in the Navy. Those who focus on promotion would never get it. Those who concentrate on their work and dedicate all their time and talent to the mission will be promoted to higher ranks.

Jesus told the young man to invest his treasure in heaven. I believe Jesus also challenges us to be good stewards for what we have. Jesus assured us that for those who make sacrifices for God, they would be rewarded many times as much in this life and the other. Giving is truly better than receiving.

Let us pray: *Gracefully God: We praise and adore you. We are gratefully for what we have in the world of economic down turn. Help us to invest our treasure in heaven and give what we can to you and your church. Amen.*

積財於天

在海軍當了廿五年隨軍牧師，終於在三月廿七日在隆重的典禮下退休了。禮成後，我向司令官懇請允許上岸後，有六位軍官向我敬禮。我就在鳴鐘四響及管帆長的笛聲中，慢步在紅地毯上，踏出了我的軍牧生涯。

我在海軍的經歷，使我聯想起聖經中那年青的富官。當兵要年輕力壯，表現良好，才可升官加薪，這不正是那個令人嚮往的年青富官所擁有的嗎？

那個官來問耶穌：「良善的夫子，我該做甚麼才能承受永生呢？」(路加福音 18:18) 耶穌要他變賣一切分給窮人，然後去跟從祂。為甚麼耶穌對他的要求那麼高呢？

耶穌並非對富人有偏見，祂只是想教導那年輕人，十誠的真義是愛，他若有愛在心中，就自然能用自己的財富、時間、及權力去幫助窮人。

我在海軍學到一樣重要的功課，那從早到晚想着升官的必然失望，只有那努力工作，將自己一切時間及才能為國盡忠的，才有升官的機會。

耶穌告誡那年青人要積財於天，也就是提醒我們，要做個好管家。凡我財帛金銀、光陰、才幹，都是主賜的恩，若能奉獻給主，不單在今生得賞賜，來生更得百倍的加添。施比受真的是更為有福啊！

請禱告：萬恩的主，我們讚美祢，在這全球經濟不景氣的時候，我們尚能豐衣足食，求祢幫助我們積財於天，盡力奉獻給祢的教會。阿們。