

An Exercise To Discern Both Good and Evil (Hebrews 5:14)

New Things Just Make Me Happy

Scenario:

A family in the congregation appears to be doing well financially. That is the thought, because they have purchased a new house, new vehicles, new clothes, new furniture, and the list goes on and on. They seem to keep the local restaurants busy with how often they are able to get food from them. They have multiple sources of income. The man of the house has gainful employment. The wife has a source of income from an early retirement. They are not selfish. If brethren have financial needs, they are often helpful. The man of the house has been expressing displeasure with his work because he is not, according to him, bringing in enough income to do what his family wants to do.

Statement That Arises From Our Scenario:

A brother in the congregation hears this man speak of his displeasure with his current level of income and says this: "The eyes of man are never satisfied." To which, the man of this scenario responds: "Hey, new things make me happy. I grew up poor. I work now so that my family and I can have the best things we can afford. I will not apologize for that. I give much to the Lord and His work. I help out. I just want nice things. Abraham was rich. I want to be too. So, I am going to look for work that brings in more money. That's my business, not yours."

A Later Statement Is Made:

After a long, awkward silence, the man continues: "If Jesus asked me to give all my stuff to the poor and follow Him I would. He hasn't. You should be building me up in my pursuit to be a better provider rather than making me feel like I am doing something wrong because I want the best for my family."

For Discussion: What do you see in those statements?