

Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

The Sad Saga of Simple Simon

By ROBERT HARRIDER

Simple Simon went fishing for a whale;
But all the water he had was in a pail.

Simon was not simple because he went fishing. Many intelligent people go fishing! Some even make it their occupation. Neither was he simple because he went fishing for a whale. Whale fishing is a profitable industry that provides many useful products for mankind. Why was Simple Simon simple? Because he thought a pail carried enough water for a whale!

The world is full of Simple Simons who are searching for peace, joy, and happiness. But the places they search bring only worry, sorrow, and stress. Houses, cars, designer clothes, travel, and all the things money can buy do bring momentary pleasure. But none of these can permanently quench the inner thirst of man's heart. And besides, if some tragedy destroys them, such as fire, theft, or storm, what does one have to cling to then? Jesus said, *"lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through not steal; For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"* (Matthew 6:19-21)

Material things cannot of themselves give depth to our lives. In fact the people who live for things are usually very shallow. They live by what they see and measure everything in terms of their enjoyment. Neither is length of life guaranteed by things. While the wealthy man can purchase excellent medical care, this is no proof that he will live any longer than the poor man.

Things cannot promise one any breadth of life. Imagine being able to put your life into "barns" The rich farmer thought that if he built bigger barns to store all his wealth that he could then *"take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry"* (Luke 12:13-21). But sadly, that night he died! And having failed to be rich toward God, he was call a "fool"

(To be continued next week, finding true stature and depth of life