



## A Dream Well Taken!

One night a man dreamed that he had died and was brought to the judgment bar of God. Perhaps

it was because he had heard a sermon that night from the Book of Jude, which said that the Lord was coming to convict men of unrighteousness. The preacher pointed out that to convict someone it was necessary for evidence to be brought against the one being judged. He pointed out that God would have no problem of supplying the evidence to convict the guilty.

In the dream, he was standing before all the angels of Heaven. He felt pretty comfortable in the dream. There were no skeletons in his closet. There were no immoral or filthy DVD's, pornography magazines, hidden liquor bottles, crack pipes, or any such things. He had never owned such trash nor had he even tried booze or drugs.

He had known no woman but his wife nor had he embezzled or stolen. In the dream he thought almost like the Pharisee in the temple that had boasted of what he had done and what he had not done. However, on the table were boxes, which looked as if much evidence had been brought for exhibits against him. He wondered what was in those boxes.

The prosecuting angel reached into one of the boxes.

First, he presented many moth-eaten clothes from the man's closets. He had not worn them but a few times. Instead of giving them to the naked, he had stored them and they were moth-eaten. They were marked, "Exhibit A".

Next were pictures of old cars and machinery sitting around his house. They were filled with rust. He remembered how he refused to sell them or give them to poor people who did not possess an automobile. He knew others could have been hauled off for cash that could have helped the poor. These were marked, "Exhibit B".

"Exhibit C" was bankbooks, CD's, old faded bank notes, and a myriad of annual statements of Mutual Funds and Annuities. Included in Exhibit C were old tainted silver and gold coins and some mildewed dollars that he had hoarded. Worse yet, were beautiful shining silver eagle dollars in a piece of sewer pipe that he had hid in the ground.

There were hundreds of dollars of silver. He thought no one would know where they were hidden. He felt like the unprofitable servant who had hid his money in the ground because he was afraid. What was it the Lord had called such a man? "A wicked and lazy servant". He shuddered.

He had been commanded by Jesus not to lay up on earth where moth and rust corrupt and thieves break in and steal. He remembered that James had said such things would be a witness and eat his flesh as if it were fire.

Then, "Exhibit D" was displayed for all to see. It was a bottle of tears. "Do you know what these tears are?" asked the angel. "No" the dreamer answered in a trembling voice. "These are the tears of those that worked for you and gathered your harvest that you underpaid and defrauded. When they cried unto God, He heard their cries and caught their tears as He said He would do." (**James 5:4, Deuteronomy 24:15, Malachi 3:5**)

The dreamer who had felt so righteous and claimed he had never stolen, shook with grief and shame. And then a curtain was drawn back and a movie of his life came on a large screen. The details of the movies were so clear that no producer could ever produce such quality of a movie. It was actual footage of his real life. It showed the dreamer of his living in pleasure on the earth. He had been wasteful and destructive. He had defended the abortionist who had killed the innocent. **James 5:5-6**

He saw his cars, boats, and campers, even his house and fields were more than was necessary for a man to be content. The dreamer wept and howled for he was in great misery at seeing his selfishness and the vanity of all these things.

Then the screen of his life was changed to his disposition. It showed his pride, arrogance, and lack of compassion for the poor. His grudges and attempts at revenge out of bitterness and unforgiveness was easy to see. He cried out in agony at his sinfulness. It was not just fear of punishment but a genuine sorrow for his evilness. He had never realized what a wretched sinner that he was.

Suddenly, a hand was laid on him. A light came on. His wife was shaking him asking him why he was shaking and screaming in his sleep. She assured him that he was only dreaming. The dreamer sat up and looked at the beautiful room. His closet was standing open and he could see all of his clothes. He got out and walked through the house beholding the antiques, the costly furniture, the expensive gadgets, and the useless figurines and old

paintings. He knew what kinds of cars were housed in his garage.

He fell on the sofa and covered his eyes and wept. He repented. He resolved that he would view his possessions differently. It would definitely make a difference in his life and his family. However, that decision was already beginning to make him very happy. He knew the Beatitude was true, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."