

Essay from the bald pastor

#160 - Mr. Ma -

According to Forbes magazine, a Chinese e-commerce firm, Alibaba, recorded the world's biggest public stock offering of 25 billion dollars at the NY stock exchange in September, 2014. As a result, its founder, Jack Ma saw his total assets rise to 19.5 billion dollars and became the richest man in China. You may think he must be laughing all the way to the bank. Surprisingly, however, he remarked he was in a great pain!

In his interview with a US TV program, he said, "This month I'm not very happy. I think too much pressure." "Maybe the stock goes up, maybe people have high expectations on you, maybe I think too much about the future and have too many things to worry about," he continued. "Being rich is good, but not the richest man in China. It's a great pain because when you're the richest person in the world, everybody is surrounding you for money." Even to the China's state-run media, he said being the richest man in China is meaningless and added, "My happiest days were when I used to earn 90 yuan (\$15) a month."

"As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them? God gives some people wealth, possessions and honor, so that they lack nothing their hearts desire, but God does not grant them the ability to enjoy them, and strangers enjoy them instead. This is meaningless, a grievous evil."

Ecclesiastes 5:11, 6:2

"This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot."

Ecclesiastes 5:18

Incredible! The truth Ma learned about being rich had always been in the bible. These are the words of Solomon who built "the golden temple" and climbed to the top of the world 3,000 years ago. His teaching is that we shall believe in and stand in awe of God, the Creator. If we want to be happy, that is.

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