

RxF4Now—The Ogre by the Manger
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□ **Research**

- Eastern Tennessee State University research published in the *American Journal of Public Health* (reported in *Los Angeles Times* 11-18-16)
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- The median household income in the poorest “state” was \$_____ —while in the richest “state” it was \$_____ .
- The average number of people per county in the poorest “state” was about _____ —compared with about _____ in the richest “state.”
- Although the poorest “state” had a much smaller population, the ratio of people to primary care doctors was _____ that of the richest “state.”
- Smoking prevalence was _____ as high in the poorest “state,” and the prevalence of obesity was _____% higher.
- Life expectancy for women in the poorest “state” was _____ years, compared to _____ years in the richest “state.” For men, life expectancy in the poorest “state” was _____ years and _____ in the richest “state.”
- The proportion of the population that was African American was _____ times higher in the poorest “state” than in the richest one.
- In the richest “state” _____% of residents lived in rural areas—whereas in the poorest “state” _____% of people did.
- People in the poorest “state” were living under conditions seen in the real United States around 1975 or 1980—whereas people in the richest “state” were already living under conditions that won’t apply to the real United States until 2020 and beyond—i.e., “the poorest “state” is between _____ years behind the living conditions achieved by the wealthiest “state.”
- Comparing these poorest and richest “states” with 222 actual countries of the world—if the richest “state” were an independent country it would rank 8th in the world for life expectancy for men, 25th for women—but the poorest “state” would rank 123rd for men and 116th for women—meaning more than _____ the countries in the world have longer life expectancy than the poorest counties in the United States.

□ **Reflection**

- Mark 10:17-22
- The Greek for “great wealth” (NIV) literally reads: “. . . because he had _____.”
 - The average American home today contains _____ items—which would certainly qualify for “many possessions”!
 - According to Joshua Becker, the author of *The More of Less: Finding the Life You Want Under Everything You Own*, we see about _____ ads every day telling us to buy more.

- As the Huffington Post suggested, the mantra to hook us third millennials seems to be: “Buy like you _____, only more frequently.”
- “Joshua Fields Millburn & Ryan Nicodemus, known as ‘The Minimalists’ to their 4 million readers, help people live more meaningful lives with less through their website, books, podcast, and documentary.” (www.theminimalists.com)
 - Millburn: “How might your life be better with _____?”
 - Millburn: “Consumption is *not* the problem. _____ consumption is the problem.”
- Proverbs 30:15—“The leech has two daughters. _____’ they cry.”
- Julie Schor: “There is a widespread sense among the population that people have gotten too materialistic, and that’s been around for a while. It’s also the case that materialism is the other person’s disease, so _____ percent of people think that Americans are too materialistic.” (<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/10/juliet-schor-american-dream/409321/>)
- Schor: “Economically privileged people can be very critical of the materialism of very poor people, because they have a large television or a pair of sneakers.”
- *Desire of Ages*: “The story of Bethlehem is an exhaustless theme. In it is hidden ‘the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God.’ Romans 11:33. We marvel at the Saviour’s sacrifice in exchanging the throne of heaven for the manger, and the companionship of adoring angels for the beasts of the stall. Human pride and _____ stand rebuked in His presence.” (49)
 - The Ogre? There beside the manger human _____ stands rebuked.
- *Desire of Ages*: “Selfishness is _____. . . . and the soul that refuses to impart will perish.” (417)
- Self-surrender is most convincingly demonstrated by “_____ surrender.”
- Jerry Bridges: “Contentment with what we have—whether it is possessions, or station in life, or mental and physical activities—is worth far, far more than all the things we don’t have. A multimillionaire reportedly was once asked how much money was enough, to which he replied, ‘One dollar more.’” (*Transforming Grace* 78)

Stuff

24,960; 89,723; 14,000; 362,000; twice; twice; 50; 75.9; 83; 69.8; 79.3; 4.5; 21; 75; 40 to 50; half; many; possessions; 300,000; 5000; breathe; less; Compulsory; Gimme! Gimme!; 80; self-sufficiency; selfishness; death; stuff