

“Right or Rich?”

by

B.B. Robinson

To economists who believe that more is generally better, the consideration would be both not either of the two. That is, economist would say that it is important to be “Right and Rich.”

And well they should. Why? Because although we say, “If Loving You is Wrong, I Don’t Want to Be Right,” we know that any metaphysical or physical configuration that does not have its origin in “rightness” or “correctness” ultimately falters—crumbles, crashes, and burns.

Take seen and unseen elements for example. Scientists can use an atomic particle accelerator to force atoms into an unnatural/incorrect configuration to form an “element,” but only temporarily. Ultimately, only preordained or right combinations will remain naturally wedded in creation. Isn’t the simple and natural melding of hydrogen and oxygen into water a perfect and right combination? “You’re as Right as Rain...”

If it is correct in a metaphysical sense, then it can stand the test of time on a physical plane. If not, it cannot. That’s why Mahatma Ghandi and the citizens of India were able to wrest their independence from Britain; why MLK and Black Americans were able to obliterate “Jim Crow” laws; and why apartheid laws could not stand up to Nelson Mandela and Blacks in South Africa. Don’t we all hold the notion deep inside that “right will win, and wrong will lose?” Don’t we think that it’s okay to fight wars that are based on just and moral principles?

These principles apply to wealth. “Get-rich-quick” schemes may appear to experience success but, generally, what is too good to be true is, in fact, just that. Can you think Enron?

Don’t we feel most secure investing in companies that produce quality products and services, that have a proven track record, and that we believe will produce a fair, not necessarily an exorbitant, return in the long run.

Some may argue that getting and being rich, no matter how this end is achieved, is acceptable. I disagree. Riches that are obtained in violation of moral principles—that is, “wealth from sin”—create a long shadow. That shadow casts pain and suffering onto the holders of those riches. In fact, the only saving grace for those in such turmoil is to purify their deeds through charity.

If you disagree, I challenge you to tell the complete story of one who obtained ill-gotten wealth, but who did not experience the concomitant turmoil that is accompanied by it. Be certain that you tell the entire story. “It ain’t over till it’s over.”

What does this mean for Black Americans who have lived without great wealth and riches for so long? We should continue to pursue economic gains, but we should do so correctly; with smart and right work, wise and right investments, and right patience. Remember that we are only two generations from Jim Crow. Patient perseverance will bring us the riches that we desire and deserve. What we know is, "He may not come when you want ..."

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