

## THE POST-MATERIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Generalizing From Luke 16:19-31

By

J. Michael Strawn

(Outline)

Three Identifiers of the Post-Material Consciousness:

A. THE POST-MATERIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IS NOT CONTROLLED BY TIME/PLACE/CIRCUMSTANCE

1. Culture tries to impose the "right" relations between mind-----external world

2. Post-material mind believes that the material, the concretes not critical

The Rich Man's Catalog of First Concerns:

The Symbols of Wealth v.19

Superfluity v.19

Vanity

So, we learn the material mind = ROOTED IN THE SELF

Behooves the question: What is in my catalog of First Concerns?

THE POST-MATERIAL CONSCIOUSNESS KNOWS THAT THE MATERIAL IS FINALLY IRRELEVANT

The Post-Material Mind in a material context behaves a certain way:

Gen. 22

Gen. 6

Gen. 50

Exo. 2

Josh 2,6

Heb. 11

The Post-Material Consciousness comprehends relevance

people are relevant

love is relevant

enoblement is relevant

taking responsibility is relevant

Reality of God is relevant - put a cap on certain technologies

Would disapprove of certain entertainments

Would disavow certain personal practices

THE SOLIDARITY OF THE CHURCH DEPENDS UPON THIS KIND OF THINKING WE CALL POST-MATERIAL CONSCIOUSNESS!

The material mind = rejects it 2 Tim. 4

The material mind = embraces the carnal Rev. 2, 3

The material mind = dissolves the work of God

Eternal consequences are relevant

- This calls for SUPREME RELATIVIZATION
- The Post-Material Mind relativizes the material
- Any mind anchored in/rooted in "here & now"/material/time, place, circumstance is MALFORMED
- This is the Lord's psychological diagnosis
- We may be "statistically normal" but that is not the last word
- The Post-Material sees thought, speech, behavior in a larger context:

At least a 3-fold context: (1)the presence of God

(2)the thought world of Scripture

(3)the personal fear of God

Thinking is no longer "nested" in material reality

## 1. The Post-Material Consciousness is an A HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENT

-The world encourages us to think of ourselves as Historical Phenomena:  
evolutionary history

biologic history

political history

cultural history

personal history

but none of these results in a Post-Material Mind

The Post-Material Consciousness is the achievement that SUPEROGATES our weaknesses

- we need a SUPEROGATION = we need to go beyond ourselves:

our limitations

our physical, temporal satisfactions

our sociological influences

our history

THE POST-MATERIAL CONSCIOUSNESS CONCURS WITH THE ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

Scripture = "Moses and the Prophets" v.29

Abraham's Review of Scripture: it is all-sufficient

Leads to repentance v.30

The Rich Man's Review of Scripture: it is not sufficient v.28

His proposal = a shocking supernatural experience

This experience will be produce conviction = v.31

What is sufficient to convince us of the best way to live?

Abraham:

Rich Man:

-Revelation

- a certain kind of experience

-appeal to senses will not convince

-appeal to senses will convince

-Revelation is arbitrer of experience

-experience is arbirer of Revelation

-decides the issue

-decides the issue

This means that Revelation & Experience are two different inroads to the mind  
mind is the goal because only it can repent v.30

-if not believe Word then won't  
will not believe the experience

5 brothers will believe experience then  
will believe the Word

the transition from

MATERIAL CONSCIOUSNESS-----POST-MAT'L CONSCIOUSNESS

--is not accomplished by supernatural experience but by the Word of God

1. There are two convergences:

Revelation - Mind Convergence

Revelation - Experience Convergence

-all-sufficient

-insufficient

-determinant

-not determinant

-builds conviction

-not enough

-faith develops on Lord's terms

-faith held hostage

Big question for 5 brothers: Will you believe even if you don't get the  
Revelation----Experience Convergence?

Truism: The Only Way To Get Post-Material Consciousness is the Revelation-----Mind Convergence.

Faith failures caused by a limitation of Rev-----Mind Convergence

The Lord often allows an apparent disconnect between Rev-----Experience

Jo. 11; Lk.16; Deut. 8; Gen. 16; Dan. 9

Revelation-----Mind Convergence = stronger than our experience

Church, personality, marriage, family = to be embodiment of Post-Material Consciousness

## CONCLUSIONS:

A. These form the basis for:

(1) engaging the concretes of the universe

(2) engaging contemporary sociology

(3) engaging our own psychological challenges

B. Obligation: To think about the material universe and all its material particulars in a post-material way

-this puts post-material constraints on observation

-basic requirement in Garden of Eden Gen. 3

C. Creates a Post-Material Analysis:

(1) No Quantification

(2) Only Textual Criteria

(3) Presumptive

(4) Post-Material Use of Language