

A very self-righteous guy glanced at a proud owner's shiny new Harley and said *"I wonder how many people could have been fed for the money that motorcycle cost."*

The owner quickly replied, *"Well, I'm not sure, but I do know it fed a lot of families in Milwaukee Wisconsin where it was built, and it fed the people who made the tires too. It also fed the people who manufactured the components that went into it, and don't forget the people who mined the copper to produce the wiring for the electrical system. It also fed people at Caterpillar in Decatur Illinois. They made the equipment that hauled the copper ore. There was a truck driver too who delivered it to the dealer where I purchased it. I guess I really don't know how many people it fed."*

That's a mental picture of the difference between welfare and capitalism. When you buy something or pay for a service you put money in people's pockets and provide dignity and purpose for their skills. When you give a person something for doing nothing you rob them of their dignity, their purpose and their self-worth.

Capitalism, simply stated, is the free exchange of money for something of value. It's a mutual agreement. Socialism, simply stated, is taking money from someone who earned it and giving it to someone who did not! That someone is very likely driven by desperation which is a manifestation of humanity's fear nature, perhaps from early childhood for many. They have lost, if they ever had, their purpose for living. It is a double loss for everyone!!!

We're all born for a purpose. To not seek out ways to discover it is blatant sin. We who have experienced our purposes must realize that after humanity's fall (*The tree of knowledge of good and evil - Genesis 3:3*) life commenced to not be fair. We're all living the results of ancestral choices, some good and some bad. Without the 'grace' of our Lord we might be a welfare recipient too.

We must see this desperate social challenge as a call to advance our specific purposes to be worthy ministers to those who have lost or, perhaps, never discovered a purpose for which to live.

Let's all pray a purpose driven vision for ourselves that will allow our Lord to deliberately place within our spheres of influence those who are in desperate need of purpose. Remember too, our Lord who gave us our purposes will also give us a spiritual wisdom to direct them toward theirs.

Deuteronomy 15:4 reminds us that there is no reason for anyone to be poor. However if you read on you will see that we will always have the poor with us and we do need to care for them because life is not fair!!!

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