

# EMUNAH - FAITH BULLETIN # 20

**WHO IS WEALTHY? THE ONE WHO  
IS HAPPY WITH HIS PORTION (PIRKE AVOT)**

## THE DANGERS OF WEALTH FAR OUTWEIGH THE DANGERS OF POVERTY

Soon after his arrival in Jerusalem, R' Avraham Shaag satisfied his longing to own land in Eretz Israel by buying a strip of land in Jerusalem just outside of the Jaffa Gate. Not long afterwards, when the surge in immigration and the city's expanding commercial activity began causing real estate values to soar, R' Avraham called an agent to sell his property. A puzzled R' Yissachar Ber asked his father why he was selling when the property's value was increasing daily? The tzaddik replied, "It is precisely for that reason. I am afraid that my grandchildren will become wealthy and it is a well-known fact that the dangers of wealth far outweigh the dangers of poverty!" Shortly after R' Avraham's Shaag's death, the value of his particular property skyrocketed. It was on this land that Jerusalem's major business district was built (Ha Ish al ha Choma)

"Do not make silver and gold gods for yourselves" (Ex. 20:20): G-d said to Israel, "Do not conduct yourselves with Me the way idolaters conduct themselves with their gods. When good fortune comes their way, they honor their gods... and when suffering befalls them, they curse their gods... You, however, should give thanks whether I bring good fortune or suffering." As King David said, "I will lift up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the L-rd." "I found trouble and sorrow, but I called upon the name of the L-rd" (Ps. 116:13,3-4) Yalkut Shimoni (Isaiah, 8:4)

*"Everything Hashem does, He does for good." (Berachot 60b)*