

**J.R. Miller:**

**"What is a man profited â€" if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:26**

**That is putting the case in its most favorable light! The whole world is the largest possible gain. But suppose a man does gain the whole world â€"**  
**it cannot keep him from trouble;**  
**it cannot give him peace of conscience;**  
**it cannot comfort him in sorrow;**  
**it cannot make a soft pillow for him when he is dying;**  
**it cannot purchase Heaven for him when he is gone!**

**All he can do with the world, after he has it, is to keep it for a short time until he dies! He cannot carry any part of it with him to eternity!**

**"How much did he leave?" asked one, referring to a millionaire who had just died. "Every cent!" was the reply. He left all. So it is easy to see that there is no profit â€" but rather a fearful and eternal loss, in gaining even all the world â€" at the price of one's soul.**

**Then think for how much smaller price than "the whole world" which many people sell their souls for!**

**Some sell their soul for a few hours' guilty pleasure!**

**Some sell their soul for a political office!**

**Some sell their soul for filthy lucre!**

**Some sell their soul for honor which fades in a day.**

**They are selling their souls also in many other ways â€" for pitiable trifles.**

**Like Esau, they are bartering their heavenly birthright â€" for a bowl of stew!**

**In a newspaper, this advertisement appeared: "Wanted! A nice cottage and grounds â€" in exchange for choice liquors." No doubt many people answered the advertisement. Men are continually giving home and property and peace and love â€" for strong drink!**

**What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**

**Ah! that's the trouble. When the soul is lost â€" there is no way of recovering it. When we have made our choice, and lived our life, whether right or wrong â€" there is no possibility of changing the results! Life is given to us only once; and if we live it wrongly, there is no chance to live it over again. A lost soul cannot be gotten back; it is irretrievably lost!**