

Round Meat vs. Chicken

by Robert F. Turner

When they built the big dam, some men came in from the back country to take their first “paying” job. The regular crew noticed one young man, friendly enough until noon, when he withdrew to a distant shade to eat.

They urged him to join the group and he explained: “Ain’t had no paycheck yet; but soon’s I get me one of them blue buckets, with some round meat’n loaf bread, I’ll eat with you.” All he had was a shoe box full of ham, chicken, and soda crackers.

That poor boy probably worked like a dog to get enough money to move to the city, where he spent the best part of his life working like a dog so he could retire to the country. He was one of the millions who did not know when he was “well off.”

Ambition makes a man restless, and ambition for the right goal is a fine thing. When life is seen in proper perspective — “*a vapor that appears for a little time*” (**James 4:13**) — we may make our plans to use our time wisely. A man with a dream — active, building, carefully fitting each block into the foundation of that dream to make it real — that man is a sight to behold. He is a force hard to stop. This is meaningful restlessness.

But running from ourselves is fruitless. How can we hope to make good with assets yet unfound, if we refuse to see and use the assets we now possess.

I dare you to make a list of the ten most desirable features in that “dream life” of yours. **Who** does it include? (Yes, people are essential elements.) **Where** is it located? **How** could you bring it about? (Be realistic now in recognizing your capacity!) When you finish, look about you with a cool critical eye, appraising each possibility. You may find that you *already* have many of the ingredients for your dream but are failing to use them properly. And if **YOU** are the weak link, do **YOU** plan to change when you run over to greener pastures?

Many a man has left his wife (or vice versa) only to discover the difficulty was with self, not with the first partner. There may be “acres of diamonds” in your back yard. You’ll never know until you move the rocks.

Round meat (bologna to you) may be *new* and *fancy*, but it ain’t chicken!

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