

DIVISIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF GREED

What threats and violence could not, greed did!

Intent of the story

- ✓ *Greed may overpower the noblest causes*
- ✓ *Greed is the root cause of all evils.*

WHO BROKE THE UNION?

A very rich Landlord who owned hundreds of acres of land. was a heartless man. He, mercilessly, exploited his daily-wage winners and bounded laborers. Led by a zealous leader, the farmers organized themselves into a disciplined "Farmers' Union".

The Landlord thundered, threatened, terrorized, victimized, and assaulted his men. He wanted, at any cost, to break the union. But all in vain! At last, the Landlord had to give in and pay the laborers their just wages.

The wicked Landlord, however, by hook or by crook, was still determined to break the union. One day, he called his workers and, very shrewdly, told to them: "Dear friends, I realized at last how badly I treated you, how I exploited you. I am very sorry. Now I changed my mind, I want to make amends, so I have decided to donate you, all my properties; my fields, my houses, store rooms, oxen, tractors and wells. Kindly call a general meeting of all the union members, and decide yourselves how you want me to divide my properties amongst you."

The farmers wonder struck with the news couldn't believe their ears. Immediately, they called a general meeting to discuss how those large properties and assets should be divided among themselves. Unfortunately, from the very start of the meeting quarrels and dissensions arose among them. . You could hear them shouting at each other and yelling at the top of their voices: One said: "I want the well!" one said" Another shouted "I want that big field!" Still others clamored, we want the big house! And we, the storerooms! And we the oxen, and we the tractors!

The meeting ended in a fiasco. All the farmers went home very angry, shouting, abusing and raising their fists to one another. Complacently, the Landlord was watching from a distance. Needless to say, that very day, the union broke and the Landlord s exploitation went on.

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Why the Landlord, at the start, did not manage to break the "Farmers' Union" even by threats, intimidation and violence?
2. How did he finally break the Farmers Union?
3. What was, actually, the root cause for the downfall of the Union?
4. Who did in fact, break the Union.
5. What's the worst enemy of peace, unity and concord among people, even among good families and friends"? Give examples
6. Recall some events and experiences in your life or in the life of others that confirm the lesson of this parable.
7. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

Explain the following sentences:

- "Greed for money is the root of all evils"
- What might cannot break, soft greed destroys.
- Greed dissolves the strongest bonds.
- Many a good family stays united until the Parents die!
- Greed blinds.
- Greed makes ravenous wolves out of harmless sheep.
- Your worst enemy is a greedy friend.

Gospel Quotes in keeping with the thrust of the story suitable for - A prayer Exercise

Mt 5/1-11	The Beatitudes. Blessed are the poor in spirit...
Mt 6/19-21	Riches in Heaven. True riches that get neither robbed nor rusted.
Mk 10/17-27	The rich young man.
Lk 12/13-21	The rich fool. He filled his go down, he never enjoyed it.
Lk 16/14-15	The teachers of the Law made fun of Jesus because he was not greedy for money.
Lk 16/19-31	Rich man and Lazarus.
Mt 26/14-16	Judas sells Jesus.
Tim 6/6-10 "	We brought nothing into the world. Greed for money is the root of all evil."
.Jm 1/9-11	Poverty and riches.
.m 5/1-3	Warning to the rich.
Rev 3/17-19	"You say I am rich..."

Old Testament Passages

Prov 28/6-11	"Better the poor contented than the rich..."
P'rov 30/8-9	"Give me neither poverty nor riches..."
Ecc 2/8-11; 4/7-8;	"Vanity of vanities and all is vanity..."

