

1 Putting on Heirs

- What is it like to find out you're Rich!

2 Amnesia Test

3 Amnesia Test

4 ExTra Extra

5 Max Melitzer

- If the story behind the headlines weren't true, you'd think you were hearing another Hollywood rags-to-riches tale.
- But it is true, Max Melitzer was homeless until his long-lost brother died and left him his entire estate.

6 Max's Sad Life

- Max's life flipped upside down with his car in 1990.
- While driving his wife and two friends through Wyoming, he lost control and rolled off the road. He survived, but his loved ones all died.
- Twenty years later, Max was pushing a shopping cart and all of life's possessions through the streets of Salt Lake City.
- Following the wreck, his sorrow became depression, which became aimlessness, which became vagrancy.
- After losing his friends and his apartment, he drifted hopelessly between relationships and addresses. Eventually, he lived homeless on the streets of Ogden and Salt Lake City.

7 Brother's Wishes

- Morris Melitzer hadn't seen his brother Max in 15 years.
- Though the family had initiated contact with him at times, they knew Max had "emotional issues" and preferred to be a recluse.
- Still, when ultimately succumbing to his cancer battle, Morris' death-bed wish was that his brother be found and given his estate.

8 The Search for Max

- After a year of searching, Utah detective David Lundberg finally found Max in a Salt Lake City park.
- He had recently been beaten up, his watch and money stolen.
- Lundberg described Max as a sweet man in his 60s, far more articulate than you would think.

- After a celebratory meal together -- the first fish Max had eaten in 21 years -- Lundberg loaded Max onto a bus and sent him back to New York to connect with his family and his inheritance.

9 Rags-to-Riches

- Contrary to the fairy-tale headlines spinning this story, Morris' estate wouldn't set Max up for life.
- It was only about \$100,000. And Max avoided the media after arriving in New York, so there aren't any public reports that we've been able to find on how his story ended.
- But one thing we do know, Rags-To-Riches stories are not all that uncommon.

10 Rag-To-Riches Stories

11 Adoption as sons

- You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, (Galatians 3:26 NIV)
- “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:18 NIV)
- So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. (Galatians 4:3-5 NIV)
- So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. (Galatians 4:7 NIV)
- So we see here that those of us who are “in Christ” once were slaves are now adopted into God’s glorious family as heirs. WhoHoo!!!

12 Rags-To-Riches

- Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. (1 Corinthians 1:26 NIV)
- For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV)
- You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. (2 Corinthians 9:11 NIV)

- In other words, we who were “no bodies” are now made rich through Christ’s death, where we have received a rich inheritance so that we can be generous with the various forms of grace that God has given to us.

13 The Princess Diaries

- Mia (Anne Hathaway), a precociously smart but socially awkward American 15-year-old, suddenly learns that her late, absentee father was the crown prince of Genovia, a tiny European kingdom resembling Monaco.
- Mia must then decide whether to give up her life as a San Francisco teenager, or enter the strange new world of protocol and duty that is the calling of a modern royal.
- Mia finds the transition difficult. At one point she cries out in frustration: “You try living for 15 years thinking that you're one person, and then in five minutes, you find out you're a princess.”
- The point is that it is hard to live like a princess or prince when all your life you’ve been a nobody.

14 Reversal of Fortune

- If Max Melitzer's story sounded vaguely familiar, it's because Oprah popularized an almost identical situation four years ago.
- She aired the story of Ted Rodrigue, a homeless man and the subject of the Showtime documentary “Reversal of Fortune.”
- Film directors planted a briefcase filled with \$100,000 in a dumpster where Ted collected aluminum cans.
- They wanted to capture what he'd do with the money after finding it.

15 Reversal of Fortune

- After stumbling upon the cash, Ted bought a bike, got an apartment and found a girlfriend.
- Then he bought a \$35,000 truck, and another truck for a homeless buddy.
- Refusing the savings advice of family and a financial counselor, Ted insisted he was "set for life" and wouldn't get a job.
- By the time he appeared on Oprah to promote the documentary, Ted was homeless again and had none of the \$100,000 left.
- Ted had squandered His good fortune and new status.

16 Using our New Status

- You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. (Galatians 5:13 NIV)
- Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. (1 Peter 2:16–17 NIV)
- Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation — but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. (Romans 8:12 NIV)

17 Our High calling

- As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. (Ephesians 4:1 NIV)
- Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (1 Peter 2:11–12 NIV)
- So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. (Ephesians 4:17–18 NIV)

18 Manifest Living

- Manifest living as sons is what God is trying to accomplish in our lives.
- However, it is not easy as we are so accustomed to living as slaves who approach their master in fear, we have difficulty accepting our new position and rights as sons and daughters.
- Also, we can be slow in adopting the customs, values, and protocol of our new residence where we frustrate the benefits of its government.
- In other words, we can be so alien to what pleases God we treat Him as an object to be manipulated by religion, instead of the obedience that comes through faith.
- Real passionate worship in God's Kingdom is not just the singing of music, but becoming imitators of God—living out the virtues of His character and values of His Kingdom.

19 Conclusion

- Through Christ's death, we have inherited a kingdom and been adopted as God's sons and daughters.
- We have been freed from the power of sin and as Gentiles are no longer bound to the Mosaic Law with all its rules, regulations, and customs.

- We are now “streamlined” to serve God in “spirit and in truth,” meaning not in “form (religious rituals),” but in “function (essence).”
- If we do so, great grace and God’s favor will be on our lives as we are showing to everyone, we are citizens in right standing with God’s Kingdom and it shows.
- So then with this in view, let us put on heirs! Not in arrogance, but in humility, sincerity, and integrity.