

## AGE LIKE WINE, NOT LIKE MILK

The other day I asked my wife, "Bakit karamihan ng mga sumikat na tao, hindi tumanda nang mabuti?" Many of them fell into immorality, others got addicted to drugs, some got consumed by power, etc. Is it a curse to be rich and successful? I heard a young boy tell his pastor once, "If riches will make a person sin, then I would rather live a simple and unassuming life." But I said, "If you do that you will not be able to live out your full potential!" I told him that becoming rich and successful is not wrong as long as you understand why God wants you to be one.

In Genesis 1:28, God tells us to become fruitful. Like a plant, we can be fruitful. Do you know that plants do not benefit from their fruits? Their fruits rot away if no one takes them, and rotting fruits will invite pest and disease to the plant if no one removes them. If we follow this logic, then this means that when we become rich, we should use our excess to bless others. If we do not, our excess will invite problems and tempt us to sin.

Although there are some who failed, there are others who age very well as they become more and more successful. I can think of Warren Buffet and Bill Gates, who themselves have become good friends. As they continue to grow richer, they invest their excess in endeavors that improve the lives of others and seek solutions to the ills of this world. Because the goals they set to achieve are much bigger than their present resources, they continue to work so that they can produce more than enough for themselves. As they do this, they use their excess to bless others, and in the process they live fruitful lives.

Should God make you rich and successful, do not forget the reason why He made you so. Therefore, strive to be a faithful steward of His riches by using them to bless the world. This way you will age like wine—and not like milk.