



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Money—no key to happiness



A story in a US magazine illustrates the fallacy of believing that happiness comes via a winning lottery ticket. Last year, Frank Capaci, a retired electrician from Illinois, won a \$195 million Powerball jackpot. Today, however, he is a man without friends. Those who were his friends and closest pals no longer speak to him and he is not welcome at his local drinking den, Bill's Pizza Pub. There are murmurs of "lawsuit" amongst his former drinking buddies.

The problem is that he was part of a group who bought jackpot tickets in the lottery, in the neighbouring state of Wisconsin and when it was discovered that he had won, he immediately told the bartender, John Marnell, who had travelled one hour to the neighbouring state of Wisconsin, where tickets for the Powerball jackpot could be purchased, that he would "take care" of him and his fellow bartender, Patti Rooney, out of the winnings. He immediately wrote cheques for \$10,000 for the two bartenders. But pub regulars say that he promised them much more. Patti Rooney has asked for \$3 million. Capaci offered them \$500,000 to split between them. This was refused and feelings continue to run high, since Capaci's former friends feel that he would not have won without the part played by John Marnell and Patti Rooney.

The story is not really so exceptional since over the years big money winners have found that big money often, if not always, means big problems. The "green-eyed monster" -- envy, is more powerful than the longest of pub friendships!!!

The wise man Lemuel, said: *Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me,* Proverbs 30: 8.