

Thought for the Day – Misplaced Faith

A couple of years ago, a South-East Asian gentleman bought an invisibility potion from a renowned witch-doctor. He paid roughly the equivalent of £6,000 for it. But he's not going to be out of pocket – he's going to recoup his outlay by robbing a bank. Why not? After all, they won't be able to see him doing it, will they? So he's arrived at his local branch, jumped over the counter and started helping himself. And it seems to be working! Normally, withdrawals can only be made by those who can produce the correct paperwork or a valid firearm, but he's ransacking drawers and the staff are ignoring him. In point of fact, though - they're ignoring him *because they've already pressed the silent alarm*.

He's not even too bothered when the police turn up – because he just knows they can't see him - so he's somewhat taken aback when they snap the cuffs on and bundle him into a car. When last heard of, he was trying to sue the witch-doctor...a difficult task, especially from prison.

Perhaps he should have posed the question – if the invisibility potion *really* worked – why the witch-doctor *himself* wasn't out robbing banks, or rigging the lottery draw...or hanging around the Miss World changing rooms.

The would-be robber's problem was *misplaced faith*. He believed what he wanted to believe. It's very common – for example, misplaced faith is why we still have Elvis conspiracy theorists, Sheffield Wednesday supporters and the Flat Earth Society...despite all the evidence they've backed losers.

On a wider scale, misplaced faith is responsible for the belief that if we can only earn more money, buy bigger cars and houses and/or be famous...we'll find true happiness. But those who climb the ladder of success don't find fulfilment on the top rung. Mostly, such people then just find themselves a bigger ladder to climb... perhaps *even more* of everything will hit the spot. It never works. Worldly success never really brings them contentment – though I suppose it does mean they can be miserable in more comfort.

We are *designed* to be fulfilled, satisfied, content – but we're designed to achieve that in relationship with our Creator-God. Little wonder that life seems so unfulfilled for so many people, when they use it for purposes other than that for which it was intended. Those who expect fullness of life while ignoring the manufacturer's instructions are always going to be disappointed. As a matter of fact, *they're no less wildly optimistic than the guy with the invisibility potion!*