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### Theme Analysis of *The Great Gatsby*

Money is everything to everyone, society makes you feel worthless, if you are not wealthy.. With all the parties, fancy clothes, and fancy houses, the higher class thinks that they have everything. Everyone is so happy, at least that's what Nick thinks, "Her voice is full of money, he said suddenly. That was it. I'd never understood before. It was full of money-that was the inexhaustible charm that rose and fell in it, the jingle of it, the cymbals' song of it." But, what he doesn't see is all the scandals that occur on the other side of every closed door, the yelling and fighting in the next room that is muffled by the noise of the parties, or the pain of still not being happy after everything that they have. In *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, you will find the main theme is that money doesn't always buy you happiness.

Gatsby had everything, the big parties, the fancy clothes and the fancy house, and everything in it. Nick looked at Gatsby and thought that he had everything, he thought that he was the happiest man alive, until he asked about his money. "I lived like a young rajah in all the capitals of Europe –Paris, Venice, Rome- collecting jewels, chiefly rubies, hunting big game, painting a little, things for myself only, and trying to forget something very sad that happened to me a long time ago " (Fitzgerald 65-66). When Gatsby's family died he inherited a "great deal of money" (Fitzgerald 65), and went around wasting his money on superficial items that might

make him happy. When the war came around, he actually tried to get killed, because he had nothing to return to but money.

Everything seemed perfect, it was a wonderful party, everyone was happy. But if everyone became quiet then you could hear what was really happening. Nick didn't know about the pain that happened in these people's lives, he didn't know what was really happening behind all of the closed doors. "Beat me!" he heard her cry, "throw me down and beat me, you dirty little coward!" (Fitzgerald 137). Everyone had problems but with money Nick thought that those problems just disappeared when you had money, but the truth was they only got worse, they were just able to hide behind closed doors.

Nick never opened his eyes to see the world, when it came to money, he would see that someone had money and simply believed that they expelled happiness. Just because Nick was an outsider to the lavish lifestyle he didn't see what money really was, but he knew never to criticize. "Whenever you feel like criticizing any one," he told me, "just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had" (Fitzgerald 3). He had a good life and a lot of opportunities, but his life wasn't ideal. He judged the upper class thinking they had everything in the world, that they had the perfect lifestyle because all they could ever talk about was the money that they had, he wished he could be like them because of everything they had received in life until he realized that it wasn't so perfect.

Nick always believed that money could buy your happiness, but little did he know that some people would fight their entire life to keep that smile on their face, and try to change the past. "Can't repeat the past?...Why of course you can!" (Fitzgerald 117). He learned from Gatsby that happiness doesn't come from money but the people that you love. There will always be

someone for something that will tear down your life because of what you have, and sometimes that love will just disappear.

### Works Cited

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. New York City, Scribner's, April 10th, 1925.