Contrasts between Tom Buchanan and Jay Gatsby

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            All men have many differences between them. In The Great Gatsby written by Scott F. Fitzgerald, two men have differences that separate them. Tom Buchanan, a married man and Jay Gatsby, a single man have differences that separate them. They both are very wealthy people. The main contrasts between Tom Buchanan and Jay Gatsby concern their relationship with women, source of wealth, and their human decency.

            One difference between Tom and Jay is their relationship with women.Tom is married to Daisy, and he is not faithful to her. He often has affairs with other women. One in particular Myrtle Wilson, who is married to George Wilson. Tom pretends to be friends with George only so he can go out and see Myrtle. Tom buys a dog for Myrtle to have so that she will be happy. They often go to an apartment so that they can be alone together. They also invite many people to the apartment parties. At one party, Myrtle keeps repeating Daisy’s name because she is intoxicated and wanted to tease Tom. Tom punches Myrtle in the nose as a result of this.

            Gatsby is a single man, who had been in  love with Daisy before he went to war. He has moved across the bay from her. He has parties every weekend because he wants to see if Daisy will ever come to one. Tom, Nick, Gatsby, Daisy, and Jordan all go to a hotel together on a blazing hot day; Tom and Gatsby get into an argument, and Gatsby says  “Your wife doesn’t love you. She’s never loved you. She loves me.” (Fitzgerald 137) Gatsby wants Daisy to leave Tom for him. Gatsby does not have a wife and has only been in love with Daisy.

            Also, each man has acquired their wealth in a different way. Tom has inherited his family’s wealth. He often wears polo ponies that he had gotten from Lake Forest. The clothes that he wore often took peoples breath away. When Nick is telling us about Tom's wealth, Nick says, “It was hard to realize that a man in my own generation was wealthy enough to do that.” (10) Tom and Daisy also liked to go place to place and visit.

            Gatsby was supposed to inherit money from his employer Dan Cody. He had not recieved the twenty-five thousand dollars because of a lawsuit. Supposedly Gatsby also owns a drug store business. When Tom and Gatsby were in their argument Tom says, “The drug store business was just small change.” (141) He was also known as a bootlegger who sells prohibited alcohol in his drug store business.

            Tom and Gatsby have a major difference in how they treat people. Tom was not very pleasant to anyone. His only concern was himself. He would be friends with someone until they became boring, and then would move onto someone else. "They were careless people" (188)  Tom did this to George; he is friendly to him because he is having an affair with Myrtle.

            Gatsby does care about the few friends that he has. He is very caring and romantic. He has once been in love with Daisy and tries getting her to love him once again. He tries in many different ways to get to see her. He has parties just to see if she came to them. After Daisy hit Myrtle with the car, Gatsby does not want to go away because he wants to make sure that Daisy would be able to be happy once again. Unlike Tom he wants people to like him not his money.

            Tom Buchanan and Jay Gatsby have many differences between them. Tom is a very wealthy man that likes to make people feel they are not wanted. Jay is a very loving man, who wants people to like him. Even though they both have a lot of money, Jay unlike Tom earned his.

Work Cited

Fitzgerald, Scott F. *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Scribner, 1925.