Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #31

Possessions

**Luke 12:15 (NASB)** *15  “Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."*

Over the course of this crisis, many people have been occupying their time by cleaning their houses and removing piles of accumulated stuff. Our family has been doing the same thing. It is amazing how many things we accumulate over time. Interestingly, the things all have some meaning attached to them. With everything that we came across in our storage shed, I could tell you a story related to that item. Many memories are wrapped up in the things we obtain.

But the reality is there will come a day when someone, maybe a family member and maybe not, will come in and either hold on to or sell or carry to Goodwill all our earthly possessions. Recently, I had a unique opportunity to help a friend go through his friend’s basement. There were years and years of tools and accumulated gadgets, nuts and bolts, etc. It was a feast for the scavenger in me. But what was most alarming was the man’s office. It was still filled with papers on his desk and a computer and printer and the normal things you would see in an office setting. But the earie part of it was, the room had not been touched in twenty years. It was dark and filled with hundreds of cobwebs. It was like something you would see in a movie. Like the man had just walked out and left everything just like it was, twenty years ago.

As my friend and I went through everything and took what was usable, by the owner’s permission of course, I said to my friend, “I guess this is how it all ends”? He looked at me and simply said, “Yeah, I guess so”. That moment was an awakening moment spiritually for me. While I have known and believed for years that life will end and I will leave all my worldly possessions to someone else, I was taken aback by the futility of gaining worldly possessions. I’m not saying it is wrong to have possessions, but possessions are an indicator of where we place our value.

Our Lord said, we are to guard our hearts against anything - anything - that creates greed. He was speaking about earthly, material things. Because He knew things easily replace Him and what is profoundly important in this life. Amazingly, human beings, people created in the image of God, often fall for the trap that to possess things is somehow a measurement of who we are. Our sinful flesh believes that what we accumulate somehow determines our greatness or at least a measurement of our value in this world.

But the Lord wants us to believe and accept that our value does not come from things but from who we are because of Him. He wants us to know that because He lives in us there is nothing that could be gained that would be more wonderful. He created us to need only Him. To possess only Him. And everything else is simply a bonus and a tool to be used for the benefit of others.

Truly our sinful hearts, without the power of the Holy Spirit working in us, are full of selfishness and possessiveness. And not only a possessiveness of material things, but possessiveness of pride and ego and self-reliance. We are full of the me-first mentality.

Let us begin the process of letting go of the things (the stuff) in this life that has no meaning. Let us not be afraid to accept the truth that what we have in this world will one day become junk for someone else to take to the dump. Let us remember that whatever we possess, is to be used for God and His glory. For the rescuing of souls, and at a very minimum, for the help of someone in need.

**1 Timothy 6:6 (NASB)** *6 “godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment”*.