Daily Devotion #129

Enjoy Your Life

*Ecclesiastes 5:18 – “Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one’s labor in which he toils under the sun during the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.”*

I like a good action movie as much as the next person. There is something about the thrill of adventure that is captivating. I confess that the action movies I enjoy are along the Marvel comics line and not the real-life things, unless it has to do with fishing on the icy waters of the Bering Sea or extracting gold from the earth. Those are cool shows too.

But what always strikes me is the effort people put into what they do in this life. Not that that is a bad thing, but how their hearts and minds are bent on getting more and having more. And nothing less than more and more will satisfy their desirous, or should I say, lustful hearts. Lustful for the wealth of this life.

On the television series, Gold Rush, there is a young man who started mining with his grandfather some years ago. He made quite a bit of money doing that, and after a few years, he set out on his own. Now he makes millions, and his operation is huge. But it is never enough. Every season is filled with the self-imposed pressure to have more and more gold. And, often, relationships are destroyed in the process.

Just recently, Chadwick Boseman, known to most as The Black Panther from the Marvel movie, died from colon cancer. Chadwick was a very good actor. And no doubt, he had become rich from his career. But now it is all gone. I don’t know about his spiritual life, and I will bring no judgement against him, but I do wonder what all that money did for him. I pray it was used for the good of others.

Then there is Jeff Bezos, Founder and CEO of Amazon. His wealth just topped 205 billion dollars. I don’t discredit Jeff for what he did. I, for one, think Amazon is the greatest thing to come along since sliced bread. But I also read that he and his wife divorced after twenty-four years of marriage. And like Chadwick Boseman, I make no judgement on Jeff Bezos. But I do wonder what all that wealth has gotten him.

King Solomon was the richest man in the world, according to the Scriptures. Some have said it could have topped two trillion dollars. We are told of his pursuits, and that God had prospered him greatly. He, no doubt, found great comfort in his riches. At least for a time.

Because King Solomon was also the wisest man to live, he became aware of the futile pursuit of money and wealth in general. We know that from what he wrote in Ecclesiastes. There are two verses that have always struck me. Our verse for today and when he wrote at the very end of the book. *“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)*

What these verses tell us is that life should be enjoyed, not so much for what a person has, but for what God has done for them. God wants nothing more than for us to enjoy all He has prospered us with, but He never intended for these things to become our god. We should take each day and all that we are given and enjoy it. That’s right. God wants us to enjoy our fortunes and fame and whatever else comes, as long as He is the focus of all we have and do.

Ask yourself, if everything were gone in a moment, would you be content? If all you have worked for was taken away, would all you have put your energy into be worth it? Life is brief. And God has not told us the day of our departure. What He has told us is we should enjoy what He has given us and use it all for His glory. Is that your goal? If so, enjoy the life the Lord has given you. That brings great gladness to His heart.