Daily Devotion #138

**Rich Toward God**

*Luke 12:21 (NASB) 21 So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”*

If we are honest, most things we do, places we go or things we buy or possess are for ourselves. We all have an innate desire for more. Especially in America, where just about anything anyone could want is available with the click of a button and delivered to your door in a day or two. The combination of the perceived need and the ability to get something within a matter of hours is captivating to the soul as well as controlling.

And it’s not that there is something wrong with having the things of this world. There have been many people who had great wealth and possessions but remained and or remain godly. In other words, they understand that all they have is a gift from God. Specifically, to be used for His glory.

But the reality is, even those who are godly, often find themselves looking for some level of peace in retail therapy. Going to a store or shopping online often is a way people release themselves from the pressures of life and get a lot of joy in something new. Again, there is nothing unbiblical about any of that. Except when the accumulating of things, begins to replace Jesus and the richness of heart He provides.

In this account in Luke. Jesus has been encountered by a man who is frustrated because his brother will not divide the family inheritance with him. (vs 13) So he calls Jesus to instruct the other brother to do so. But Jesus quickly clarifies that He did not come to be an arbitrator of family issues, but to deal with the heart of man so that issues such as this will be rectified simply because the heart is right.

So the Lord says in verse 15, “beware of greed”. Then Jesus says, the things we possess in this life do not give us what we really need, which is the richness of a soul that is full of God’s Spirit. And to finish His point Jesus describes a man who was extremely wealthy, and because of his wealth, he believed he could take in easy in life, because he thought he was set for life. The Lord responds to that wrong thinking by saying. Life is not about what you accumulate! In other words, nothing you or I possess in this life will satisfy our souls and give us the peace we are really looking for.

Again, it is easy to get lost in this illogical thinking. What is usually missed is that we will not be on this planet forever. In other words, people think that they will find their joy and contentment in life by what they possess instead of looking to the One who can give true contentment.

Enjoy your stuff beloved. Enjoy the fact that God has giving you lots of toys in his life. But don’t ever let them become your focus. Many families have imploded over estates and inheritances when a father or mother or grandparent dies because they didn’t get what they wanted. Don’t let that happen to you.

God wants you to enjoy this life, but He wants you to find your riches in Him, nothing else. All the other “things” in this life should simply be a reminder of Him. The One who has loved you and provided good things, so your life is not so difficult. But He would never what you to miss Him in the gifts He has given you.

Make sure you live each day thanking Him for all you have. Take some time and look around and be thankful for all the blessings in your life. You will find that you are much richer than many of the richest people in the world. Not because of your stuff, but because you know that God loves you and lives in you. Who would want to trade that for anything?