

The Problem of Greed

Luke 12:13-34
September 27, 2009

The Problem of Greed

- Greed is a problem
- Greed and the environment

What is the solution?

- Trust God
- Live simply

It's Time to Wake Up

"Because we lack a divine Center our need for security has led us into an insane attachment to things. We really must understand that the lust for affluence in contemporary society is psychotic. It is psychotic because it has completely lost touch with reality. We crave things we neither need nor enjoy. .

It's Time to Wake Up

"Where planned obsolescence leaves off, psychological obsolescence takes over. We are made to feel ashamed to wear clothes or drive cars until they are worn out. The mass media have convinced us that to be out of step with fashion is to be out of step with reality.

It's Time to Wake Up

"It is time we awaken to the fact that conformity with a sick society is to be sick. Until we see how unbalance our culture has become at this point, we will not be able to deal with the mammon spirit within ourselves nor will we desire Christian simplicity." (Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, pp. 80-81)

What is the solution?

- Trust God
- Live simply
- Be content

Be Content

¹¹Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be **content** in whatever circumstances I am. ¹²I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need." (Phil. 4:11-12)

Be Content

*"Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being **content** with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,""* (Heb. 13:5)

Be Content

⁷For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. ⁸If we have food and covering, with these we shall be **content**." (1 Tim. 6:7-8)

A Wise Prayer

⁸Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, ⁹That I not be full and deny *You* and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God." (Prov. 30:8-9)

How to Practice Simplicity (from Richard Foster)

1. Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.
2. Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.
3. Develop a habit of giving things away.
4. Refuse to be propagandized by the custodians of modern gadgetry.

How to Practice Simplicity
(from Richard Foster)

5. Learn to enjoy things without owning them.
6. Develop a deeper appreciation for creation.
7. Look with a healthy skepticism at all “buy now, pay later” schemes.
8. Shun anything that distracts you from seeking first the kingdom of God.

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Additional Information

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Sermon audio can be found on
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