

Luke 12:15

15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Luke 12:15 (AMP)

15 And He said to them, Guard yourselves and keep free from all covetousness (the immoderate desire for wealth, the greedy longing to have more); for a man's life does not consist in and is not derived from possessing overflowing abundance or that which is over and above his needs.

Time does not permit me to tell you the story today of, “The Little Boy Who Always Wanted More.”

Suffice it to say, if you just reread the title of the story, you will understand its meaning. The Cliffs Notes version of the story is this: what he currently had was NEVER good enough for him; he always wanted more.

Luke 15:11-13

11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth *to me*. And he divided unto them *his* living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

The “prodigal” son is the poster child of the little boy who always wanted more; little boys who always want more grow up into big boys who ultimately end up with nothing.

Elder I.H. Terry used to say, “It takes a long time to get a gate.”

As a pastor, I wish I could emphasize to the young people whom God has placed in my trust to help them make heaven their ultimate destination—that it took a long time for the church to get here. Our elders fought spiritual battles and fought against worldliness and ungodliness when some of us were still playing with Tonka toys.

The prodigal found out the hard way; it really does take a long time to get a gate. However, what takes a long time to acquire, can be squandered away in a moment.

We are living in the moment of “ME.” I deserve to be happy; I deserve to have it now; I deserve to be able to have fun; I deserve to come to church and not have to be burdened down by hearing preaching regarding sin and salvation; I deserve (you fill in the blanks). People are leaving good churches because some courageous Man of God is not afraid to stand flat-footed behind the pulpit and boldly proclaim, “I need to remind you that it’s really not about you; it is all about HIM!”

You can’t build a church in a day; revival doesn’t come in a can, and the little blue light is definitely not flashing on aisle 7 for the blue light special on revival, and we certainly aren’t going to have revival by squandering what our elders have fought decades to preserve and hand down to us.

Psalms 48:12-14

12 Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.

13 Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell *it* to the generation following.

14 For this God *is* our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide *even* unto death

I wonder if the father took the prodigal for a walk around the family farm before he gave him what he thought he “deserved” and let him know, “Son this farm has been in the family for many generations, and it was always the intention of our ancestors that it stay in the family FOREVER!”

Our young people need to walk about Zion again; instead of squandering the standards that we have held so near and dear to our hearts and lives, they need to hear the stories again of how and why we got here in the first place.

Titus 2:11-15

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Finishing up where we started:

Luke 12:16-21

16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry.

20 But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21 *So is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Jesus told it like it was when he ended it by saying, “*So is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Always wanting more and wanting to circumnavigate holiness and a disciplined life is nothing more than selfishness, and selfishness is really not defined by what something costs; it’s measured by what it costs you.

If your “more” is going to cost you your faith, your family, and your relationship with God, the cost is far too great. Is that really a cost that you are willing to pay?

R.P.S.