

The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry

Week 3: Simplicity

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Intro

- Start/Stop Goal
- Reviewing Silence and Solitude

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Sayings of Jesus on Simplicity

- *Watch Out! Be on guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.*
- *Sell your possessions and give to the poor...*
- *Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Seek first God's Kingdom!! All these then will be given to you.*

3

More Hard teachings

- *The worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires of other things come in and choke the Word, making it unfruitful.....*
- *Again, it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter into the kingdom of God.*

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The Potential of Wealth to create a poverty of the soul

- Wealth can keep us in constant worry and hurry our hearts to retain it at all costs
- Wealth can give us a false sense of security and whenever that security is compromised we turn on others and God
- Wealth creates the false identity that somehow we are entitled to it, earned it, or are better than others because of it.
- Wealth can suffocate faith in God and hurries us away from generous living.
- The more wealth the harder it is to experience the life of God's reign
- Wealth and plenty conditions our souls towards entitlement, instant gratification, dehumanization, and ingratitude

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Critiquing Consumption/Consumerism

- The more you have; the happier/more fulfilled you will be
- "Atheism hasn't replaced the Christian life; shopping has" –Jean Baudrillard
- Where things become identities. I am what I can buy; I am what I own; I am what I consume
- Consumerism as religion. Amazon.com=temple, visa statement=altar, double-clicking=liturgy, lifestyle gurus= pastors, money is god

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Critique Continued

- “We must shift America from a needs to be a desires culture.... People must be trained to desire, to want new things, even before the old have been entirely consumed. We must shape a new mentality. Man’s desires must overshadow his needs.” Paul Mazur Wall Street Banker
- “A consumer economy built around people spending money on things they don’t need sacrificing to a god who never satisfies the soul so that they can live in a kingdom of cold castles and comforts”
- The aim of advertisements and propaganda; Freud and Bernays’ “unconscious drives”

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Confusion of Wants over Needs

- Commandments 9&10- the overlooked sins of coveting
- Unholy Discontentment with place, position and things
- “The drive to possess is an engine for hurry. What we will pursue will eat up our time.”
More hours at work for more money for more stuff.”
- Solution? Become Amish?
- 1.) We put no limit or critical eye on stuff due to our insatiable human desires for more.
2.) We think we need all sorts of things to be happy when, in actuality, we need very few.
- Psalm 39

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More from Jesus

It is more blessed to Give than to receive

You cannot serve both God and money

Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions

Not simple commands; but realities of life

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What if More is Less??

- More Stuff.... Less of what matters most
- Less Time? Less Financial Freedom. Less Generosity. Less Peace. Less focus on life; less mental real estate for creativity. Less relationship. Less margin. Less prayer.
- Matthew 6 Do not store up... The eye is the lamp.. You cannot serve two masters...Do not worry... Are they all connected?

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What is Simplicity?

- Simple Living and Frugality
- Not a decluttering of the closet or garage, but your life.
- Minimalism (not the cultural definition of “tiny homes”)
- Not living with nothing, but living with less.
- Not poverty, but freedom
- Donating and giving instead of organizing and boxing it up
- “The intentional promotion of the things we most value and the removal of everything that distracts us from them.”-Joshua Becker
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19

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Principles of Simplicity

- Before you buy something, ask yourself, What is the true cost of this item?
- Can you afford it? How much time will it cost? How often will I use it? Will it add value to my walk with God and with others?
- Measure hurry; What will this do to the pace of my life? Speed it up or slow it down?

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Before you buy, ask, Is this impulse buying?

- You'll be shocked how freeing it feels to not buy something.
- When you do buy; opt for fewer, better things.
- "Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful or truly believe to be beautiful"
- Remember, Not how do I get more? How can I live with less?

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When you can share/give/bless

- We hold everything in common except our wives. –Diognetus
- Get into the habit of giving away.
- Live by a bless budget and a realistic budget
- Learn to enjoy things without owning them

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Cultivate a Deep Appreciation for Creation

- Appreciation for wonder and gratitude
- A deep appreciation for the simple pleasures
- Eat together more
- Lead a cheerful revolt against the spirit of materialism
- Recognize advertisement for what it is... propaganda

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Buddhist vs Christian view of simplicity

- Not Buddhist Detachment from all desires but living in such a way that our unfulfilled desires no longer dictate our joy or contentment

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Scriptures to close on

- Philippians 4:10-13
- Luke 10:1-4 vs. Luke 22:35-38