

EXPERIENCING the POWER of “ONE ACCORD”

“...they lifted up their voice to God with one accord...And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:24, 31-33 (KJV)



This Week’s Thought – December 4, 2016

“And Jesus said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Luke 12:15 (NIV)

I don’t particularly enjoy going to the mall. It’s a place that I typically avoid if possible, especially around this time of year. It seems however that now online shopping has become the growing trend, and while it may be less hectic than the malls, it can actually be more dangerous to your wallet and budget. Especially when you all you have to do is: point, click, and have shipped, right to your front door.

I remember trying to get off I71 South at the Kenwood exit, not even wanting to go the mall, but the line for exit stretched almost as far back on the highway to the Cross County/Ronald Reagan exit which is about a 2 mile stretch. Recently, I came across Jesus’s words in Luke 12. With the aforementioned thoughts and experience fresh in my mind, I had one clear thought as I read this passage: **as a culture we have let our guard down when it comes to possessions!**

We scurry from store to store, and/or feverishly search websites, looking for the latest fashion or the next unbeatable sale, and we do so at such breakneck speed that we rarely reflect upon how this lifestyle is shaping our hearts, lives, and desires. Without realizing it, we can create habits of consumption and acquisition that ultimately make us slaves to our possessions.

Simply put, you and I have too much stuff, and Jesus wants us to see how our stuff has too much of us!

December 4, 2016

In a culture that is driven by the accumulation of belongings, fads and possessions, it’s incredibly easy to fall prey to thinking that our worth and value is tied up in the things we own. If we have lots of **stuff**, we have worth or maybe for some—comfort. If we have limited finances and resources, our value in society and as human beings must be limited as well. While this may be a common way of thinking in our culture, it goes directly against the values of God’s Kingdom!

In the Kingdom of God, your value is found not in what you have but in whose you are.

Notice Jesus doesn’t caution against possessions in and of themselves. We all must purchase things and use resources throughout our lives. No, He says to be on guard against the abundance of possessions. Jesus says this because He knows that the more we possess, the easier it is for us to find our worth and identity in our things and stuff.

This is hard for our affluent ‘Western cultured ears’ to hear, yet as we grow in wisdom and discipleship, we must open ourselves up to these words of Christ and learn to desire Him above all else!

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “Time with Me cannot be rushed. When you are in a hurry, your mind flitters back and forth between Me and the tasks ahead of you. Push back the demands pressing in on you; create a safe space around you, a haven in which you can rest with Me. I also desire this time of focused attention, and I use it to bless you, strengthening and equipping you for the day ahead. Thus, spending time with Me is a wise investment. Bring Me the sacrifice of your precious time. This creates sacred time and space around you with My Presence and My Peace.” (Psalm 119:27; 2 Chronicles 16:9; Hebrews 13:15)

“And then God answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King