

Unlimited Storage

Intro. I notice how many cars are parked in the driveways of our homes; it is because there is no room in the garage because of the stuff inside. Years ago, a comedian named George Carlin had a routine about “Stuff;” how we collect it and where we put it. I am guilty. I dragged several boxes of stuff from Lake City to Fleming Island. I got rid of them recently at the urging of a friend. The man in the gospel story had a similar problem: too much stuff; no place to put it. God had a simple solution.

I. The man interrupted the Lord asking him to be an arbitrator in a financial argument with his brother. Some days the Lord must have wanted to go home early. This gave the Lord the opportunity to teach about greed and the wrong use of wealth. This story is found only in Luke’s gospel. Unfortunately, we

know stories of people arguing over who gets the spoons or the big screen television in grandma’s will. Notice the man’s multiple use of the personal pronoun “I, I, I.” [Gospel of Luke, Pablo T. Gadenz, Baker Academic Publishers, 2018] It is all about him. Not about giving thanks to God for the blessing of the harvest. Nothing about sharing that bounty with others who are hungry instead of it rotting in the barns because he couldn’t eat it all. He thought he was in like Flint; he was going to chill for the next few years and enjoy his stuff. Someone else got to enjoy all the blessings.

A couple of weeks ago, Deacon Rich in his homily said the world seems to value *constant activity* more than our need for *quiet* to listen for God’s word. Another measure of the world that can work against our Christian values, is collecting stuff and building

bigger garages and more storage units to hold it, rather than sharing it with others who have little or nothing. It is not a political issue; it is a *human* issue. It doesn't necessarily mean giving away everything we have. It *does* mean keeping only what we need for our "daily bread" and helping others have the same, whether it is fresh drinking water or food.

Concl. To be rich does not mean one's life is full of possessions. Richness of heart and soul can be found in *not being possessed by our possessions*, even if we have many. There are people quietly sharing their blessings in our community through the Food Pantry, Soup Kitchen and other good works.

Technology tells us it has the answer to storage problems: more terabytes for the multiple devices we

own. It's the same issue only smaller: how many devices, pictures and files do we need? The best place to store really important "stuff" is in our heart and our soul. There, the storage space is truly unlimited. Corporal and spiritual works of mercy, prayer, gratitude and grace don't take up much space. And they are very portable when it comes time to "move." That is important since we never know when that will be.

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