

JESUS' PARADOX – LESS IS MORE

John 12:20-26

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

I'm a member of the first TV generation. Through the years I have wondered about the influence that TV, especially the commercials, has on our society. We are constantly told that we need more - clothes, shoes, gadgets, furniture, houses - always the newest and the biggest and the best - because they will make our lives complete. At Christmas and also now at Easter, we are urged to buy things that will be "the perfect gift". We are led to believe that we need these "things" in order to be happy and well thought of by others.

In this Scripture Jesus speaks of dying in order to live; of losing in order to gain. To me it is saying I need to lose the life that TV tells me I should have, and start living the life that Jesus has asked me to live. To ask myself - do I really need another pair of shoes or another electronic gadget? What will I receive if I lose that life? Jesus says I will receive peace, joy, relief from debt, guilt, stress, not measuring up, weight of possessions and, most important, a closer relationship with Him. During that last extremely cold week in January, churches opened their fellowship halls to the homeless. The people who volunteered at these shelters cooked, cleaned, counseled, did whatever was needed - without monetary payment - but they were rewarded by the knowledge that they had died - at least for a time - to the self-centered life we are encouraged to live and, because of that, their lives are now fuller and richer than ever.

Ironically, one of the most popular books out now is by a professional organizer that shows you how to unclutter your life so that you will be happier and less burdened.

In 1776 the English tax commissioners accused John Wesley of having more than he reported. Wesley wrote back: "I have two silver spoons at London and two at Bristol. This is all the plate I have at present, and I shall not buy any more while so many round me want bread."

I share this **prayer** of John Wesley: "O merciful God, whatever You may deny me, do not deny me this love. Save me from the idolatry of loving the world, or any of the things of the world. Let me never love any creature but for Your sake and in subordination to Your love. Take full possession of my heart; raise there Your throne and command there as You do in heaven. Being created by You, let me live to You; being created for You, let me ever act for Your glory; being redeemed by You, let me render to You what is Yours and let my spirit ever cleave to You alone." Amen.

Starr Weaver,
Certified Lay Speaker, First Shinnston, MonValley District
starrshine797@gmail.com