

dec 29

good morning all. you know, i was thinking yesterday about the things which i still needed to do before we wrapped up this year. i guess that got me to thinking about planning ahead; things which i want to accomplish or get done.

that reminded me of the story Jesus told of the rich man who had acquired plenty. he was making plans to house all his possessions and take the rest easy. "and i will say to my soul, "soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." but God said to him, 'fool! this night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'" luke 12:19-20

i know we all need to make plans. we all have hopes and dreams. i guess the point to my rambling is this. none of us know how much time is allotted us. one spends their whole life acquiring things. things that may have special meaning to us may be cast offs to another. with that in mind, should we not begin to build our collection where we hope to spend eternity?

i remember years ago when a lady at our company died and someone was having a sale of her possessions. several of us went to the sale. as i walked through the house she had lived in and looked at all the nick knacks and things she had acquired, a thought passed through my mind. she had paid good money for all these things and there was no way to total up their cost. now they were all being sold at a bargain basement price to anyone interested. like the pharoahs of egypt

who thought to take their possessions with them, hers too were now being plundered. i could not buy anything.

we all spend our life acquiring things. perhaps some needful and some just desired. should we not begin to acquire as Jesus taught us? "do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." matt 6:19-20

how do we build up our treasure in heaven? surely it begins by letting our heart reside there first. it is then our Lord will have access to our heart and implant in it His desires. what do you hear Him whisper? speak a word to this one who is hurting. offer hope to another. and to another your time is required. perhaps you may be able to aid someone financial. just let those deeds be done in secret.

"take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. but when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly." matt 6:1-4

i don't know about you, but i long to hear the day my Lord will say, "well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. enter into the joy of your lord." matt 25:21

you know, try as we may, we can never out give God. "give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. for with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." luke 6:38

do you want to receive? then give! give prayers. give hope. give forgiveness. give money. whatever your need is, give out of that need. are you believing for a lost loved one? do not just pray for them, but also for the lost loved one of another. God is faithful! we only need to persist and believe.

linda