

The Wonder of a Simple Life

Introduction:

This morning we are looking at the wonder of a simple life. I have had a variety of thoughts come to my mind as I have prayed and studied the Scriptures this week. The Gospel of John states that Jesus Christ came to give us life and this life is to be abundant. In context with this Scripture, the reality of an abundant life is clearly seen in our salvation experience. The word for abundance has several Biblical definitions; extraordinary, more than the usual, more than sufficient, surpassing and additional to excess to name a few. This abundance of life is referring to the greatness and glories of our salvation experience and our relationship with the Good Shepherd of our souls. Once we understand the importance of this life with Christ then we can begin to look at the concept of a simple life.

A Simple Life:

Several questions come to my mind in considering a simple life.

- Does your life feel overly complicated?
- Does your life feel pulled in a dozen different directions all at the same time?
- Do you wish to live simply, quietly and in peace?

As a matter of fact, most of us to some degree or another feel life can be too busy at times. So you are not alone in feeling the stress of overwhelming circumstances. The challenge before us is to move away from the confusion of a hectic and cluttered life and learn how to live in the culture of the Kingdom of God. Here are several Scriptures that can help us to understand the wonder of a simple life.

Psalm 37:16 - Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked.

Prov 15:16 - Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it.

Prov 16:8 - Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

Phil 4:11-13- Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

1 Tim 6:6-10 - Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

1 Tim 6:17-19 - As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Hebr 13:5 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Simple is a lifestyle choice:

The simple life affects us in numerous ways; our management of time, money, our relationships to mention a few. I believe that mankind has lost some important things in the march toward progress. That is not to say progress and simplicity are mutually exclusive. I believe we can have both as long as we make kingdom culture our priority. Sometimes more is not always better and sometimes less is more. The wonder of a Simple Life can be seen in a myriad of paths that can be taken along the way to the same destination – peace with God and yourself. If your life feels complicated, if it feels stressed, if it feels out of control then make a choice to examine your life in detail and take it to its simplest form. We must learn to:

- Keep an eternal kingdom focus
- Live within your means and enjoy being content
- Live by enjoying the quiet moments God gives you
- Live in the present and not in the past or the future
- Find beauty and worth all around you not in the stuff you have
- Love your family and friends with all you are not with all you can buy them
- Own what you actually need and make it simple to care for (don't become a packrat)

In Conclusion:

It is the moments that we live fully present with the Lord, walking forward with him that makes life sweet and precious and simple. We must understand that it is OK to be content with what we have, even though the world says buy more stuff. We must understand that there are "rich" people in the Kingdom of God and that it is OK too. If we are well-to-do then we must learn to be generous for the sake of the Kingdom of God. If we are not well-to-do we must learn to be content and not entertain a poverty spirit or covetousness in the process

The wonder of simple life is coming to the place of rest and peace with God in any and every circumstance. It knows that the focus of our living is eternal and not worldly. The simple life finds other to love and serve and enjoy. The wonder of a simple life is seen as we grow and work and seek after God in every moment.