

DAY 30

I WAS NAKED AND YOU
GAVE ME CLOTHING
MATTHEW 25:36

"There once was a rich man who was near death. He was very grieved because he had worked so hard for his money and wanted to be able to take it with him to heaven. So he began to pray that he might be able to take some of his wealth with him.

An angel heard his plea and appeared to him. 'Sorry, but you can't take your wealth with you.'

The man begged the angel to speak to God to see if He might bend the rules. The man continued to pray that his wealth could follow him. The angel reappeared and informed the man that God had decided to allow him to take one suitcase with him.

Overjoyed, the man gathered his largest suitcase and filled it with pure gold bars and placed it beside his bed. Soon afterward, he died and showed up at the gates of heaven to greet St. Peter.

St. Peter, seeing the suitcase, said, 'Hold on, you can't bring that in here!' The man explained to St. Peter that he had permission and asked him to verify his story with the Lord. Sure enough, St. Peter checked it out, came back and said, 'You're right. You are allowed one carry-on bag, but I'm supposed to check its contents before letting it through.'

St. Peter opened the suitcase to inspect the worldly items that the man

found too precious to leave behind and exclaimed, 'You brought pavement?'" 37

Jesus talks in the Sermon on the Mount about making sure we don't store up treasures on earth, but instead store up treasures in heaven.

He mentions not worrying about clothes, and this is something I've never had to worry about. I feel guilty sometimes seeing all that I have and knowing others don't have as much. A couple of years ago, I posted something on Facebook about how many pairs of shoes my wife had. Out of everything I posted all year,, this drummed up the most comments from my family and friends! I asked the question, "Should she give some away or is it okay for a woman to have this many pairs of shoes?" The responses were all over the map. She did end up giving away a lot of her shoes to charity and I was really proud of her for that. But now I'm wondering about myself – how many pairs of shoes do *I really* need?

Do I have too much? Or can someone else benefit from stuff that's just sitting around in my closets and dressers? What about you? How much is too much?

God says that **whenever we do something for the "least of these" in our world, or the least privileged, it's like we do it for Jesus.** Imagine Jesus on the side of the road with no clothes. If you knew it was Jesus what would you do? Of course you would clothe Him. You would give Him whatever He needed! If your dressers are full and you don't have to worry about whether or not you'll have clothes tomorrow, you can be a big part in completing today's Challenge!

Listen to Jesus' words about what it means to store up treasures in heaven as opposed to accumulating earthly things like clothes.

MATTHEW 6:19–21, 24–34

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

GO THROUGH YOUR DRESSERS AND CLOSETS AND GIVE ALL THE CLOTHES YOU DON'T NEED TO CHARITY.

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