

More?

November 27, 2022

Glenn Garvin

BIG IDEA – Having less means having more

scripture focus – “Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.” Hebrews 13:5 NLT

ME

One day a man noticed the family standing in front of him at a New Orleans convenience store did not have enough money to pay for their few items. He tapped the man on the shoulder and said, “You don’t need to turn around, but please accept this money.” The man took the money without ever seeing who gave it.

Nine years later, a pastor was invited to speak at a church in New Orleans. After the service, a man walked up to the preacher and shared this story about how he had come to faith in Christ: “Several years ago, my wife and our child were destitute. We had lost everything, had no jobs, no money and were living in our car. We also lost all hope, and agreed to a suicide pact, including our child. However, we decided to first give our son some food, so we drove to a convenience store to buy him some food and milk.”

“While we were standing in line at the store, we realized that we did not have enough money to pay for these items, but a man behind us asked us to please take the money from his hand and not look at him. This man told us that ‘Jesus loves you.’”

“We left the store, drove to our designated suicide site, and wept for hours. We couldn’t go through with it, so we drove away. As we drove, we noticed a church with a sign out front which said, ‘Jesus love you.’ We went to that church the very next Sunday, and both my wife and I were saved that day.”

He then told the pastor, "When you began speaking this morning, I knew immediately that you were the man who gave us that money." How did he know? The pastor was from South Africa and had a very distinct accent. He continued, "Your act of kindness was much more than a simple good deed. Three people are alive today because of it."

WE

Stolen message from Kenton Beashore, Orange County. But now, I'm claiming it as my own.

**What's the one thing that no one has in Southern California?
ENOUGH.**

**The one thing we all have is MORE, but what we don't we have is
ENOUGH? Why do we feel we don't have enough?**

GOD

- God tells us in the very first stories in the Bible about creation it says that when God created us in the world was perfect and **we lived in a world of YES.**
- God provided everything that we need
 - if you asked the question the answer was yes. Can I have? YES. What about that? YES. Can I do this? YES.
 - **THE ONE exception** was in the center of the garden
 - But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—**except** the tree of the **knowledge of good and evil.** If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."
- The tempter came and just watch what happens in this diabolical plot. **In a world of YES.** In a world where we're in a loving relationship with God and everything was PERFECT
 - The tempter or comes in and asks a question that undermines God's YES, with three lies.
 - **Can we really trust God to tell us the truth? We decide we can find our own truth.**

- **Is God withholding something from me?** It's that one thing I don't have. I have all sorts of things but the one thing I don't have, and I decide to be **discontent.**
 - **Maybe I should take it for myself?** I decide to be **self-sufficient.**
 - One thing I don't have is the one thing that I think I need and if I could have this one thing **I would be significant, powerful, independent. if I take it I would become everything that I want to be.**
 - The great temptation every day is to get our eyes off the many things that our loving heavenly father has given us and simply **WANT MORE.**
 - The **focus on the one thing** that I don't have to the one thing I believe I need: the one relationship, the one job, the one position or possession.
 - **I may get MORE, but it will not be ENOUGH.**
 - This is the very center of our whole Christmas journey because the temptation is for us to **start to think, "what is it that I don't have" and "what is the one thing that I want?"**
 - In those thoughts we lose our soul and ultimately, we ruin everything.
 - We damage both our relationship with God as well as our human relationships.
 - When we look at a **broken world** and blame God, it is actually because of our collective selfishness over the centuries, the injustice and cruelty **of our own self-centeredness.**
 - The question I want us to really ask ourselves is this: **what if we got everything we want? What would it do for us?**
 - Right away we think, **"I would be happy, I would have enough."**
 - **We would have more, but we wouldn't have enough.**
- **GOD SHOWS US WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE GET EVERYTHING WE WANT**

- God answers the question what would happen if you got everything you want. What the Bible shows us is terrifying **because some of us have enough money that you can get everything you want.**
- **God tells a story of his people to show us what would happen if we got everything we want it and it helps us understand how dangerous it is.**
- God's people were enslaved in Egypt
 - What's the one thing they wanted? **freedom** and they said if **we could be free then we would be happy**. God, all we want is freedom. So, **God freed them out of slavery and actually gave them the riches of Egypt!** Were they happy? NO, they were not happy, not content, not thankful.
 - If God would if you would protect us if you would guide us if you would lead us then and so **God protected and guided and led them** and still, they were not grateful and then they said but
 - if we could have a promise if we could have hope if we would know the good things would happen to us. God said, **I'm gonna give you a land and a promise**
 - To get them to the promise, to their own land God took them into the desert and in the desert where there's NOTHING. No food, no water.
 - **God provided for 2 million people with water and he provided food** - Manna which literally means "what is it?" because no one knew exactly what it was and that just appeared in the morning. It was the **perfect food for camping and traveling**. It provided all the nutrition they needed every day as they were moving towards the promised land. After figuring out every possible way to prepare Manna - they had **baked Manna, boiled Manna, barbecued Manna, fried Manna, they had Manna on a stick and yeah Manna burgers they had Manna salad they even had Manicotti and they had Manna-Banana Cream Pie but even with that they complained!**

- Did you know that God provided Israel **256 billion gallons** of Manna a year and did that for 40 years which equals **10.24 trillion** gallons of Manna? **Lake Tahoe is said to have 39 trillion gallons. Big Bear Lake, 23 trillion gallons.**
- They whined and complained so much, and they said give us meat, **if you would just give us a meat, we would be happy**, and they became so preoccupied with what they didn't have. we're sick of Manna, just give us meat, they said. God literally has quail fly in and they are knee-deep in quail. **A miracle and still they are not grateful** and they complain and so they begin to barbecue quail and bake quail at night and **they complained and that complaining heart created a plague** in their body and it killed them and this is what it says Numbers is 11 they ended up calling the place – *Kibroth Hattaavah* (**Graves-of-the-Craving**).
- There they buried the people who craved meat. **What happens to us when we get everything we want? We get buried in a grave of craving. We have more but we never have enough.** Psalm 106 tells us the final outcome of those who get what they want and it is so sad, **“he gave them exactly what they asked for,” speaking of those who died, “but along with it they got an empty heart.” what would happen to you if you got everything you want?**
- **You'd get everything you want, and you would have an empty heart**
- The Bible says we have supernatural abilities to change the world. God gives us his love and forgives us and makes us brand new. Then he gives us the Holy Spirit which gives us a supernatural ability to minister on his behalf. We have people to live with us and have truth to live by. We have a purpose to live for. With all of these

great things going for us **and we have only one fatal thing that will destroy our heart, that's poison to our soul and you know what it is? - being ungrateful** When we are ungrateful it is **poisonous, and it literally destroys all of our supernatural abilities, and it is destructive to our soul.**

- God's solution is gratitude because when we are grateful, it works as the anecdote. One of the most repeated phrases in all the Bible is GIVE THANKS "give thanks to the Lord for he is good his love endures forever. Say it with me, **"give thanks to the Lord for he is good his love endures forever."**
- Look what Gratefulness does against the three lies of Satan.
 - Three lies the deceiver gave us:
 - **You can't trust God** – but we say, **Give thanks to the Lord**
 - **God's holding out on you** - but we say, **for He is good (God is Good)**
 - **Trust in yourself** - but we say, **His love endures forever.**
- A simple practice of being a grateful person
 - The password into God's presence: Thank You
 - When you stop and say **thank you** in a sincere way it changes everything.
 - I told you our kids are teaching their children (our grandgirls) to say, "thank you." I give Ruby a yummy bite of my food and Ruby says, "thank you" and it melts my heart.
- **When you taste something good**, we say – THANK YOU
- **When we wake up in the morning and we see another sun rise**, we say – THANK YOU
- **When we want to get up in the morning and our body obeys**, we say – THANK YOU
- **When we listen to a great podcast and our mind understands what they are talking about**, we say – THANK YOU
- **When we go to work and we're able to get things done**, we say – THANK YOU
- **When our heart beats ten thousand times a day**, we say – THANK YOU
- We don't have to live in **Boron or Blythe California**, so we say – THANK YOU

Instead, we complain...

- about money
- or our in-laws
- or we complained about our in-law's money
- about the stock market or the interest rates
- about the government

We complain about our weight

- or how many of us complain about traffic
- or whether we complained about our spouse that you have or don't have
- complained about our kids that you have or don't have
- or about our friends
- how many people complained about missed opportunities?
- our house our car or our boss
-
- **Instead, we look at our**
- Car and say ahhh
- House ahhh
- Closet aaahhhh
- Look in the mirror at our body and say ohhhhhh
-
- So now when we see:
- A new gadget,
- car,
- clothes
- we're going to say "I don't need it"

When someone asks if we want to buy a lottery ticket because the payout was **2.04 BILLION dollars**, we're going to say, "I don't need it." (A single ticket-holder from California has won the largest lottery jackpot in world history, a US\$ 2.04 billion prize (with an estimated cash value of US\$ 997.6 million), officials announced of Tuesday. The winning ticket was the only one to match all five white balls as well as the Powerball. The ticket was purchased at a convenience store, Joe's Service Center on West Woodbury Road in the San Gabriel Valley community of Altadena.)

YOU

HUMANS FATAL FLAW - INGRATITUDE

US

PRACTICING GRATITUDE

GRATEFULNESS AND SPIRITUALITY

What is the leading indicator of our life spiritually? **GRATEFULNESS**

Romans 1:21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or **even give him thanks**. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

When grateful we walk into the presence of the God, when we aren't grateful, we wander away from God.

When we complain we move towards hell and smell like smoke.

Let's just do a mass-confession right now.
So how many of you have complained or whined

How many of you complained this past week - let's see those hands!

When we complain and are ungrateful, we damage everything. our family, our workplace, our church and our own soul.

What makes a grateful person?

Harvard studied gratitude (<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/in-praise-of-gratitude-201211215561>). What do grateful people do?

**Say Thank You! And men have the hardest time saying it.
They write a list of things you are grateful for at least once a week
and then they say them out loud.**

When we are grateful, we get to be joyful. However, when we are joyful it doesn't necessarily make us grateful.

Definition of thankfulness: WANTING WHAT I HAVE

I want what I have; it couldn't be better.

This season will try to convince us to focus on what we don't have.

Car - I want my car, it couldn't be better.

Closet - I want my clothes, it couldn't be better

Your Boss - I love my job, it couldn't be better

Your wife, your kids, your family - I love my life, it couldn't be better

The most grateful people in the world are — COFFEE DRINKERS! Have you seen coffee drinkers?

They illustrate what gratitude looks like. Find their way to the kitchen or the coffee shop. They bring it in and the cuddle it like their own private fireplace. **They take in the aroma and then take their very first sip of the illustrious liquid and they say AHHHHH.**

Grateful people look at their life and say "Ahhhhh."

Because thankful people **want what they have.**

Contentment: Not wanting more

Who is more content, the man with five kids or the man with 50 million dollars? The obvious answer is, the man with five kids **because he doesn't want anymore!**

ME

And this is the hardest season to practice thankfulness and contentment. But I believe in you.

Think about this. Those adults living during the great depression, those in their 80's and 90's, were forced into lifestyle of minimalism. Yet, they not only survived, but they also thrived. **Sure, it left them with some peculiar habits, but waste was not one of them!**

Did you know that for the many Millennials, minimalism is a value today?

They often find that **Less is More**

1. Less Stuff = More Space
2. Less Spending = More Money
3. Less Clothes= More Closet Space
4. Less Furniture= More Room
5. Less Stress = More Sleep
6. Less Doubting = More Believing
7. Less Ungratefulness = More Gratitude
8. Less Complaining = More Encouraging
9. Less Talking = More Listening
10. Less Earthly = More Eternal

By having less STUFF, you gain clarity, space, focus and time.

NOTES

Genesis 1:31 NLT

“Then God looked over all he had made, **and he saw that it was very good!** And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.”

Genesis 2:9, 15-17 NLT

“The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden **he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.** The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But **the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.** If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

Psalms 106:13-18 MSG

“But it wasn’t long before they forgot the whole thing, wouldn’t wait to be told what to do. They only cared about pleasing themselves in that desert, provoked God with their insistent demands. **He gave them exactly what they asked for— but along with it they got an empty heart.** One day in camp some grew jealous of Moses, also of Aaron, holy priest of God. The ground opened and swallowed Dathan, then buried Abiram’s gang. Fire flared against that rebel crew and torched them to a cinder.”

Numbers 11:33-34 NLT

“But while they were gorging themselves on the meat—while it was still in their mouths—the anger of the Lord blazed against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague. **So that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah (which means “graves of gluttony”)** because there they buried the people who had craved meat from Egypt.”