

GOD SPEAKS  
The Discipline of Simplicity  
Week 6 August 18, 2024  
Matthew 6:33  
Pastor Mike Popovich

The Spiritual Disciplines are the tools of our transformation process and our growth in the Kingdom of God.

The Christian Discipline of Simplicity is an inward reality that results in an outward lifestyle.

Experiencing the reality of the one thing, singlemindedness, liberates us outwardly.

Speech becomes truthful and honest  
The lust for status is gone because we no longer need it  
Our goods become available to others

Our culture is neither inwardly focused or the outward simplicity of life.

### **SPIRIT OF MAMMON**

The Aramaic word for wealth is mammon.

*“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 mammon.”* Luke 16:13 NIV

Wealth can create problems for living your life.

*“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.”* Matthew 6:19-21 NIV

Jesus warns people of the impact of possessing things.

*Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”*  
Luke 12:15 NIV

*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.* Philippians 4:12 NIV

Simplicity is the only thing that sufficiently reorients our lives so that possessions can be enjoyed without destroying us.

### **SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* Matthew 6:25-33 NIV

The central focus of our life is to be the Kingdom of God.

### **FREEDOM FROM ANXIETY**

The three attitudes that free us from anxiety:

1. If what we have we receive as a gift.
2. If what we have is cared for by God.
3. If what we have is available to others

OR, what leads us to anxiety:

1. If what we have we believe we have gotten.
2. If what we have we believe we must hold on to.
3. If what we have is not available to others

Here are ten ways that simplicity can be lived out.

1. Buy things for their usefulness and not for their status.
2. Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.
3. Develop a habit of giving things away.
4. Refuse to be controlled by spurious promises.
5. Learn to enjoy things without owning them.
6. Develop a deeper appreciation for God’s creation.
7. Question all “by now pay later” schemes.
8. Obey Jesus’ instruction about plain honest speech.
9. Reject anything that comes from the oppression of others.
10. Remove anything that distracts you from seeking first the Kingdom of God.

Make God the center of your life.

God is simple. God loves us.

The world is complex. The world wants us to love it.