

Lent Day 7, February 28, 2012, Greed



And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist on the abundance of the things he possesses." Luke 12:15

If you have time, please read all of Luke 12:13-21.

In church last Sunday, Pastor David Bell stated, "Enough is never enough." He pointed out that greed doesn't end. As I thought about this, I realized he is right. Once we have the thing we've been pining away for, it doesn't take long before it's not quite as shiny or exciting as it was at first, and we're already dreaming about the next thing.

There was a a time in my life when I didn't worry too much about things, and things weren't really a problem for me. We were young; I didn't work, but stayed home with our babies, and we just didn't have any extra money. Every thing I needed that was outside of our meager budget, I had to pray about. I remember one morning my curling iron broke, and I didn't have the \$8 it took to buy a new one, so I just started praying about it. I asked God what I should do about it. That afternoon, my mother-in-law called me saying she had an extra curling iron and wondered if I knew anyone who needed one. Yes I did!

Fast forward 25 years later, and we've got both of our children pretty much raised, and our budget has loosened up considerably. I now understand how addictive buying stuff can be. This past week, God has made me look at my habits with clearer eyes to start to question whether I am using money in the way He wants me to. While I'm too thrifty by nature to be a true spendthrift, and I do give regularly, I've gotten close enough to "spendthriftiness" in this past year that I can see God putting the brakes on and making me evaluate how I am spending my money. Some of my thoughts have been, "For 25 years, I've lived pretty frugally, so it's okay to have a little fun," and so on. I have to admit, it's been an uncomfortable week.

From the verses in Like, I can see that greed can easily infiltrate my heart--almost unaware, and I need to watch my attitude about money and materialism, because one of God's top concerns is our hearts. Out of our hearts flow our actions.

Application: I am thinking about simplifying and for Lent, I feel like God wants me to try for the next several weeks to refrain from buying anything that isn't a necessity. From there, we'll see where this all leads. This is such a personal issue, I can't make any recommendations for you but the obvious one of praying about money and it's hold in your life. Is it a source of fear? Maybe you're dealing with job loss, and you're never quite sure from month to month what you'll have, or perhaps you have a problem with

debt. Or maybe you have an abundance and like the rich man in the parable are storing up way more than you need. Ask God to show you if there are any changes you need to make with your attitude toward money.

Prayer: Lord,

I need to hear your heart on how I handle money. Help me to know what you are calling me to do and then be faithful to do it. Amen.