

the IRRELIGIOUS LIFE

experiencing the inside-out spirituality of Jesus

Week 10: *THE SIMPLE LIFE*

INTRODUCTION – “It’s Just A Couch”

Hebrews 12:1

THE BIBLE DARES TO BE SPECIFIC, WHILE EXPECTING US TO SEE THE UNDERLYING, TRANSCENDANT, AND TRANSFERABLE PRINCIPLE...

e.g., **Leviticus 19:9; 1 Peter 3:3**

Our spiritual efforts must dare to be _____ if they are to be relevant. Our challenge is percision without legalism.

JESUS SCENE – Taking That First Step

Matthew 19:16-26

Luke 19:8-9

There is no ONE standard first step toward faith in Christ, except ... **Mark 8:34-35**

The only standard first step in following Jesus is “_____” all other options. (Kind of like falling in love.) Which is why Baptism makes the appropriate first symbol of our faith.

We increase our quality of life and quality of spirit when we _____ our quantity of material consumption.

Matthew 6:19-34; Luke 12:13-15

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE #10 – Simplicity

Romans 12:1-2

GROWING THROUGH INCARNATIONAL GENEROSITY...

Hebrews 13:3; Ephesians 4:28

STEPS TOWARD SIMPLICITY...

1. Voluntary poverty – for some people a necessary and “easier” first step.
2. Give away everything you have not used this year. Don’t rush to replace it.
3. Reject the fashion machine. Wear out your clothes.
4. Reject debt except for exceptional items (e.g., car/home). Buy used when appropriate.
5. Purchase with cash or write down all purchases in order to increase mindfulness.
6. Reject all impulse buying. (Hey, anticipation is half the fun anyway.)
7. If you travel, travel with Christ-honouring, Christ-embodiment purpose.
8. Order your life for radical generosity, giving well beyond the Law (e.g., tithing).
9. Teach your children counter-cultural mindfulness.
10. Attend the upcoming “Money Matters” seminar.

Luke 16:9

Matthew 12:18-21/ Isaiah 42:1-4

CONCLUSION – The Freedom To Follow

Matthew 19:21

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Talk about your thoughts regarding the insights of this quote by Soren Kierkegaard:
One thing there is which all Satan’s cunning and all the snares of temptation cannot take by surprise, and that is simplicity.
2. After briefly reviewing this week’s message, share one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read **Matthew 6:19-34**. a) What verse or thought stands out the most to you from this passage? Why? b) Jesus contrasts the goal of storing up treasures on earth vs. heaven. Do you think we can make *both* our goal? Why or why not? c) Jesus says we should look at the birds as an example of simplicity and the provision of God. Yet, birds do work hard to find food, build nests, and raise their young. How is their way of life a good example for us? e) Obviously Jesus sees materialism and worry as related. How does one feed the other? f) How is **verse 34** related to Jesus’ teaching in **verse 11**? Do you tend to get the most out of a present moment, or do you tend to ruminate on the past or worry about the future? g) What do you think would be the benefits to your own spiritual growth if you practiced voluntary simplicity (including simplicity of materialism, of attention, and of spiritual focus) in increasing measure?

SO WHAT?...

4. Thinking back over the entire message this week, in what ways do you find it most difficult to apply Jesus’ teaching on the topic of materialism and money? Be specific. What is one point of conviction that you intend to act upon this week? Pray for each other regarding this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, March 26 / April 2, 2006

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