

**Series:** The Fight  
**Message:** Fighting For Simplicity  
**Scripture:** Selected Texts  
**Teacher:** Randy Pope  
**Dates:** 23/24 March 2019

Simplicity is not measured by the quantity of one's possessions and responsibilities, but rather by the narrowness of focus as to what really matters.

**Richard Foster**

"To attempt to arrange an outward lifestyle of simplicity without an inward reality leads to deadly legalism."

**Philippians 4:12**

*<sup>12</sup> I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.*

**Richard Foster**

"The fact that a person is living without things is no guarantee that he or she is living in simplicity. Those without can love things the most. It is an attitude of trust!"

Simplicity is the by-product of seeking the right things, so as to be freed from dangerous things, so as to enjoy the best things.

1. "Seeking The Right Things"

**Matthew 6:33**

*<sup>33</sup> "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

2. "So As To Be Freed From Dangerous Things"

**Matthew 19:21-26**

*<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

*<sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.*

*<sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."*

*<sup>24</sup> "Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."*

*<sup>25</sup> When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?"*

*<sup>26</sup> And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

**Matthew 6:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

<sup>20</sup> "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

<sup>21</sup> for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**3. "So As To Enjoy The Best Things"****Matthew 6:25**

<sup>25</sup> "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

**Matthew 6:34**

<sup>34</sup> "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**Kierkegaard quote**

"Riches and abundance come hypocritically clad in sheep's clothing pretending to be security against anxieties and they become then the object of anxiety....They secure a man against anxieties just about as well as the wolf which is put to tending the sheep secures them against the wolf."

**Matthew 6:26-30**

<sup>26</sup> "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

<sup>27</sup> "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?

<sup>28</sup> "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,

<sup>29</sup> yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

<sup>30</sup> "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!

**Luke 12:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

<sup>16</sup> And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive.

<sup>17</sup> "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'

<sup>18</sup> "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

<sup>19</sup> 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."'

<sup>20</sup> "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'

<sup>21</sup> "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

### **Beyond the Rat Race**

"We buy things we do not want, with money we do not have, to impress people we do not like."

### **Francois Fenelon**

"When we are truly in this interior simplicity our whole appearance is franker, more natural. This true simplicity makes us conscious of a certain openness, gentleness, innocence, gaiety, and serenity, which is charming when we see it near and continually with pure eyes. O how amiable this simplicity is! Who will give it to me? I leave all for this. It is the pearl of the gospel."

### **Seven Suggestions:**

1. Buy Things For Their Usefulness, Never For Their Status.
2. Don't Buy Anything When You Feel You Have To Have It But Don't Necessarily Need It.
3. Don't Buy Anything In The Face Of An Emotional Appeal.
4. Don't Buy Anything That Produces Or Leads To An Addiction In You.
5. Learn To Enjoy Things Without Owning Them.
6. Resist Buying Anything That Will Distract You From Your Primary Goals Or Objectives In Life.
7. Develop The Habit Of Giving Things Away.