

WHERE DO YOU KEEP IT?

SCRIPTURE:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal” (Matthew 6:19-20).

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Any kind of storage container

SONG: “Heaven Holds All for Me”

LESSON:

I am ashamed to admit that I have too much stuff. How do I know I have too much? Because I have storage containers and boxes in my attic, my shed, my closet and my garage that are full of things that I haven't even touched in several years. We always tell ourselves, “I might need that one day,” so we add it to all of the other things that we convinced ourselves that we might need as well. Stuff! Stuff! Stuff!

What do we really need? If you have time, take out a piece of paper and make a list of all the needs you have in your life. Be very careful not to list things that you want, only the things you need. Go over this list with your family and compare what you wrote down to what everyone else said were needs.

Now, let's compare this to what God tells us we “need.” In 1 Timothy 6:6-8, Paul tells us, “Godliness is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.” Okay, compare your list to God's list. Do you have more on your list than just food and clothing? If so, you have fallen prey to the “Need More Stuff” culture. You might say, “We need a house,” but actually there are millions of people in the world today that get by just fine without living in a house. Some would say, “I need a car to get to work,” but people used to get to work before cars existed, and many still do. Then there are those who say, “I have to have my computer, or cell phone in order to get my job done properly.” These things may help us accomplish tasks easier and faster, but everything that we have listed here are all products of the culture we live in today. Our culture tells us that we have to have a multi-thousand dollar structure with a roof over our heads. Our culture has pushed us to work a long distance from our homes so that we have to rely on a car to get us there and back. The “produce more” culture has caused us to feel chained to our electronic devices because we can't perform to the culture's standards without them.

Before everyone gets mad and closes this devotional book, it is true that God has blessed us with many of the things in this life to be able to sustain ourselves and to keep us safe. Homes, cars and technology can all be used as tools to accomplish the necessary tasks in life, but we have to be cautious that we don't let the world convince us that they are “needs.” And the great thing is that God promises those who “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,” that He will provide our true needs: food and clothing (Matt. 6:25-33).

PRAYER: Please help us to focus on what is most important in our lives, which are You and Your kingdom.

MAIN MESSAGE:

Since we live in the world, it becomes very easy to get focused on worldly things. When we begin to desire the physical things here on earth more than the spiritual things in heaven, we know we are making a bad investment.