

Wednesday, March 26th (3rd Of 5 Lenten Vesper Wednesdays)

Our Lenten Vespers Journey Started Here:

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday states: "We are called to struggle against every-thing that leads us away from the love of God & neighbor. Therefore, commit yourselves to this struggle."

Matthew 20:18 (NKJV) :"We are going up to Jerusalem", . . .

Psalms 90:12 (NKJV) So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Luke 9:23 (NKJV) Jesus said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny him-self, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

The Setting for tonight's Lesson:

Luke 12:1 (NIV) Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples . . .

(:2-3 Beware of Hypocrisy) (:4-7 The Fear of God) (:8-12 Confess Christ Before Men)

Tonight's Reading: Luke 12:13-21 (New King James Version)

¹³ Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴ But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?"

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

¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

¹⁸ So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

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

²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

²¹ "So is he who lays up treasure for him-self and is not rich toward God."

Tonight's Wrap Up With Other Scriptures:

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NIV) ⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 (NIV) This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot.

Another Perspective From:

A.W. Tozer's Book: "The Pursuit of God", Chapter II, page 21. "The Blessedness of Possessing Nothing"

(Page-21) Before the Lord God made man upon the earth He first prepared for him by creating a world of useful and pleasant things for his sustenance and delight. In the Genesis account of the creation these are called simply "things." They were made for man's use, but they were meant always to be external to the man and sub-servant to him. In the deep heart of the man was a shrine where none but God was worthy to come. With-in him was God; without, a thousand gifts which God had showered upon him. But sin has introduced complications and has made those very gifts of God a potential source of ruin to the soul. Our woes began when God was forced out of His central shrine and "things" were allowed to enter. Within the human heart "things" have taken over. Men have now by nature no peace within their hearts, for God is crowned there no longer, but there in the moral dusk stubborn and aggressive usurpers fight among themselves for first place on the throne. This is not a mere metaphor, but an accurate analysis of our real spiritual trouble. There is within the human heart a tough fibrous root of fallen life whose nature is to possess, always possess. It covets "things" with deep and fierce passion. The pronouns "my" and "mine" look innocent enough in print, but their constant and universal use is significant. They express the real nature of the old Adamic man better than a thousand volumes of theology could do. They are verbal symptoms of our deep disease. The roots of our hearts have grown down into "things", and we dare not pull up one rootlet lest we die. Things have become necessary to us, a development never originally intended. God's gifts now take the place of God, and the whole course of nature is upset by the monstrous substitution. . . . (Page-28) There can be no doubt that "possessive clinging" to things is one of the most harmful habits in life. Because it is so natural it is rarely recognized for the evil that it is; but its outworkings are tragic. . . . (Page-29) The Christian who is alive enough to know him-self even slightly will recognize the symptoms of this possession malady, and will grieve to find them in his own heart. If the longing after God is strong enough within him he will want to do something about the matter. . .

Pondering On Our Conscience Personal Awareness of **God**, **Sin** and **Self**:

Pondering: to consider something deeply and thoroughly.

Psalm 46:10 Be Still And Know. . . .

GOD = For Who He Is

Psalm 46:10 (NKJV) Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Matthew 6:9 (NKJV) . . . Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Exodus 20:3 (NKJV) "You shall have no other gods before Me.

SIN = For What It Is

Romans 6:12 (NKJV) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV) . . . Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us . . .

SELF = For Who I Am

Romans 7:18 (NKJV) For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells:..

Galatians 5:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Romans 7:24 (NKJV) O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I my-self serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV) I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

