

rich young ruler was sad and walked away. Jesus challenges us with the thought that our possessions can actually possess us! So the first “simple idea” that ensures that our stuff isn’t robbing us of the life we want is to throw out the stuff we don’t need, use or distracts us from what matters. What might you need to throw out to have less of what doesn’t matter and more of what does? Write your thoughts here.

Thursday, December 3

Read Psalm 119:36-37. The Message Version of scripture translates the original Hebrew in this way: “Give me a bent for your words of wisdom, and not for piling up loot. Divert my eyes from toys and trinkets, invigorate me on the pilgrim way.” The concern is turning away from the material things in life and keeping focus on our relationships with God and others.

The second simple idea of “one hand living” is to buy less. Rather than buy things, why not provide experiences for Christmas. This is a real challenge this year; however, this is a time in which we are called to creativity! Choose experiences over things (loot). Maybe buy a membership to the zoo, or a museum, or a plan of going out for dinners at unique restaurants and/or destinations. What would buying fewer things look like for you and your family and friends? Write your thoughts here.

Friday, December 4

Read I Timothy 17-19. As you read this passage of scripture, you might think it not talking about you, but the truth is we are very wealthy in this nation and world. The third simple idea to living with less of what doesn’t matter and more of what does is to give more. Giving more allows us “to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.” What do you think? Write your thoughts here.

Message Notes – November 29, 2020

*Travel Light – Letting Go of Stuff**

- I. During this season of Advent as we anticipate the birth of Christ and celebrate that birth, we are considering what it means to Let ___ and Let _____.
 - A. The _____ of our Advent messages this year is Travel Light.
 - B. As we live our lives, we accumulate so much; not only _____ things but also distractions, _____ and disappointments.
 - C. We need to let go of distractions, _____, control, failure – we need to let go of _____.
- II. A key thought as we begin Advent is it’s better to have _____ of what doesn’t matter and _____ of what does.
 - A. It seems that everything in culture screams the _____!
 - B. Look, more means simply more and not always _____.
 - C. The Bible tells us, “Better is a handful with _____ than two handfuls with _____, and a chasing after wind.” (Ecclesiastes 4:6)
- III. In our passage from Luke’s, Jesus is teaching when someone asked Jesus to tell his brother to divide the family _____ with him.
 - A. Jesus warns, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of _____; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of _____.”
 - B. We are not what we have – what we _____ – what we drive – or what we _____.
 - C. But get ready! We are 26 days away from Christmas and every commercial, ad, post and mail flyer is _____ the opposite!

*Luke 12:13-21

- IV. Three simple ideas to ensure that stuff isn't _____ us of the life we want.
- A. The first thing to do is to _____ .
- B. The second thing we can do is _____ .
- C. The third thing we can do to let go of stuff and live a one handful life is _____ .
- V. Less of what doesn't matter and more of what does should be a _____ ; better is one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.
- A. Throw out, buy less and give more!
- B. It's a New Year and I believe we need a new view from which we can "lay a solid foundation for the _____ , and know what _____ life is like."

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, November 30

The message began with the thought that we need to "Let go and let God! While it is a simple five word phrase, its meaning is more complex than we might first imagine. To let go meant to embrace the idea of abandoning our anticipation and expectation

of what God is doing in the world. Letting God then means that we are trusting that God will reveal his will for the world. During this season of Advent, we will be exploring what it means to let go of distractions, bitterness, control and our past – it means letting go of stuff! What does "Letting Go and Letting God" mean to you? Meditate on that question and write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, December 1

Read Luke 12:13-21. Jesus is teaching those gathered around him when someone asked Jesus to tell his brother to divide the family inheritance with him; he is asking Jesus to serve as judge in an inheritance case. But Jesus refused the role of judge and warns, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." This is a tough time to talk about letting go of stuff with Christmas only a few weeks away.

We often talk about how what we do defines us – our job, our hobbies, our interest and volunteer work. But there is a danger that our possessions also define us. How might that be true in your experience? What do you own that defines you? The house you live in? The car you drive? The clothes you wear? Do you own your stuff or does your stuff own you? Meditate on the scripture you've read and these questions and write your response here.

Wednesday, December 2

Read Matthew 19:16-22. This conversation is often titled *The Rich Young Ruler*. The young man is pushing Jesus about what he must do to have eternal life. He kept commandments and he gave to the poor. Then Jesus instructed the man, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." The