

## Too Much “Stuff”

Ponder: Are you just building bigger barns?

Scripture: “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Lk. 12:15, NKJV).

As I was driving to make a hospital visit, I noticed a huge construction project on the other side of the Interstate. The sign said it will be a self-storage facility. I shook my head in amazement. Self-storage complexes are already numerous in my part of the world (at least three large ones within three miles of my house)! In the interest of full disclosure, the population is also exploding around here. Still, I can scarcely comprehend the need for so many self-storage units. So many people with so much “stuff!”

Looking at my situation in my own home jars me back to reality. We’re gradually unpacking boxes after hurriedly moving everything upstairs when the ground floor flooded. Now we’re realizing anew how much “stuff” we have and how ridiculous it is. We don’t need to rent a self-storage unit but giving away a significant quantity of “stuff” is a must.

Jesus introduced His parable of the foolish farmer (Lk. 12:13-21) with a warning against greediness. The character in that story behaved as though his purpose in life was simply to pile up more and more wealth to use for himself. His “self-storage units” consisted of his own barns where he stored his crops. When he ran out of room, he determined to replace those barns with larger ones. What about helping the less fortunate? What about supporting the work of God? Such concerns seem never to have crossed his mind.

I cannot determine what quantity of possessions is “too much” for you. But let us take seriously our Savior’s statement that our lives do not consist in the abundance of the things we possess. The world teaches us to love things and use people. Let us, instead, love people and use things.

Hymn: “I’d Rather Have Jesus”

Prayer: Kind Father, help us not to trust in riches, but in You, the one who gives us all things richly to enjoy. May we use the abundance with which You have entrusted us to bless the lives of those less fortunate and to advance the cause of Christ. In His name, Amen.