

Weaving the Word

Six Sets Sent

September 3, 2017

Welcome to where we learn to discern when enough is enough!

Do you know the difference between greediness and stinginess?

1. **Greediness is a craving to have more than I need.**
2. **Stinginess is a reluctance to share what I have.**



Greediness comes from a lack of faith and trust in God.

Stinginess comes from a lack of love and concern for others.

So, are you more *greedy* or *stingy*?



When Jesus' big day ended in Capernaum, He called on His family in Nazareth, and went out teaching and preaching and healing.

[But] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. – Matthew 9:35-37 NIV



Luke describes the chaos of this crowd.

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



Luke also reports what Jesus did about it.

The Lord appointed **seventy-two** others and sent them **two by two** [36 pairs] **ahead** of him to **every town and place where he was about to go** [in Galilee (Mt 11:1)]. – Luke 10:1 NIV

[And then] He called his **twelve disciples** to him and sent **them** out **two by two** [out of Galilee, past Samaria, into the Jewish towns of Judea, sixty miles away] and gave them power and authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey **except a staff**—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. **Wear sandals** but not an extra tunic. – Matthew 10:1; Mark 6:7-9; Luke 9:1 NIV



They're sent out on a sixty mile trek (before their town-to-town mission even begins), with nothing but the staff in their hand, the shoes on their feet, and the clothes on their back.

Do you think Jesus sent them with *enough*?



Do you know when enough is enough?

Choose a dollar amount of which you'd say to the Lord, "If I made that much per year, I'd give *everything above it away till I die, no matter how you bless me.*"

Choose an amount. You have ten seconds.

That's tough, isn't it? I mean, to face how greedy and/or stingy we really are.

Only Mark mentions that the Twelve are sent in pairs. And, only Matthew lists them; but, Matthew lists them in pairs.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, [#1] Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; [#2] James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; [#3] Philip and Bartholomew; [#4] Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; [#5] James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; [#6] Simon the Zealot [nicknamed for being Jesus' most fanatical follower] and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. [He paired His betrayer with His fanatic!] – Matthew 10:2-4 NIV



How funny is that?

Whose He paired you with for maximum growth potential?

Can you imagine how those two must've gotten on each other's nerves as they shared the Good News; and drove each other up the wall as they drove out demons!

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "**Do not go among the Gentiles** [i.e. leave Galilee] **or enter any town of the Samaritans** [as they travel]. **Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel** [in Judea]. **As you go**, [from town to town in Judea] preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God [in the towns of Judea] and to heal the sick raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. He told them: [regarding their ministry from town to town in Judea] "Take nothing for the journey— **no staff**, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; **take no** bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or **sandals or a staff**; for the worker is worth his keep. – Matthew 10:5-10; Luke 9:2-3 NIV

A staff was used for protection.

So, they'll enter a town defenseless and vulnerable to preach peace through trust in Jesus.

Bare feet were humble feet, removing any distraction of wealth while working with the poor, shoeless, masses; and, standing in stark contrast to the pretentious clothing of the Pharisees.

But, this is where modern critics cry, **“Contradiction! Mark says Jesus told ‘em to take a staff and to wear sandals; but, Matthew and Luke say Jesus told ‘em not to.”** *Breathe easy.*

The Twelve receive the same *ministry instructions* as the seventy-two; although, the seventy-two must *portray themselves* as foreigners, (Lk 10:4) and the Twelve *will be* foreigners. And, **Mark recorded Jesus’ orders regarding the 60 mile trip to Judea, about which Mark also records His instructions to shake the dust off their bare feet in any Judean town that rejects them.** (Mk 6:11)

The real question is why Jesus stripped ‘em down to send ‘em out. *Thankfully*, He explains it all just a few minutes later. *But, that’ll probably be a few months for us, so we’ll read ahead!*

Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. – Luke 12:22-23 NIV

It’s not about meeting my immediate needs as I see them; but, learning to trust God for my eternal needs as only He knows them.

The real struggle is to want what He wants for me, most of all.

And, what He wants most, for all of us are things like patience, character, perseverance, mercy, maturity, resilience ... you know, all the things that are developed through lack and suffering.



Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet **God feeds them** [with rotting garbage and decomposing animals: *the bread of death*]. And **how much more valuable you are than birds!** [He offers us the Bread of Life! So, why settle for less?] Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? – Luke 12:24-26 NIV

Death *is* coming. So, **why spend so much time worrying about who’s getting the best parts of the dead animals in the garbage dump?**

Death is *coming*. **Worry won’t delay it; it’ll only speed it up!**

So, are you putting enough trust in the One who offers a way out?

Do you know when enough is enough?



Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! – Luke 12:27-28 NIV



Death throws everyone into the fire, whether hell itself or God's blazing glory.

But, **the Lord offers to clothe us in holy, white linen to keep us eternally cool in His fiery presence.** (Is 33:14; Rev 3:18, 19:8)

And do not **set your heart** on what you will eat or drink; [don't neglect your health or stop enjoying food or be irresponsible about providing; but, don't let it consume your thoughts and crowd your heart till you to seek *it* instead of *Him*] do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and **your Father knows that you need them.** [So don't freak out; seek out] But **seek his kingdom,** [through His Word] **and these things** [the Bread of Life and Living Water] will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. – Luke 12:29-32 NIV

Faith doesn't pretend God will meet our *temporal needs* according to our limited definition. It trusts the Lord to supply what we *really need* according to His perfect plan and our eternal best.



Hillside at the Sea of Galilee

This is the second time Jesus tells the Twelve this two-part parable. The first time was a year before, when He chose them. Only, back then, He concluded this by saying:

Therefore do not worry about **tomorrow,** for **tomorrow** will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. – Matthew 6:34 NIV

Tomorrow has come. So, He's reminding them by way of repeating this 2-part parable. Only, this time He concludes by saying:

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. [That's why they won't have bread, bag, money, or extra clothes for the journey. Their tuition for this mission is to sell everything and give all the proceeds away. *And, they do!* (Mt 19:27; Mk 10:28; Lk 18:28)] Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. – Luke 12:33-34 NIV

The time has come to decide if they're all in, with Him, for life. *And, they are.* Because they know when enough is enough. All except one, that is. And, what he desires sure backfires. This short troublesome **life down here isn't about the haves and the have-nots; it's about the trusts and the trust-Nots. No one gets *out* alive; but, we *can* get *in* alive!** But be warned: **worry will only breed more greed and stinginess.**

So, do you know when is enough, enough? If you don't know, it'll *never* be.