

Ron Armstrong • November 2 & 3, 2019
Chasing Carrots: Less, But Better

Luke 12:15 Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

16 And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. **17** He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

18 “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. **19** And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

21 “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

1 Timothy 6:6 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.

A. Constantly pursuing MORE.

1. The first passage is a warning to everybody, but the second one is to people like me.
 - a. Jesus is warning everybody about substituting stuff for a vibrant relationship with God.

b. Paul is warning Christ-followers that we should not be living one purchase, experience, or consumption away from CONTENTMENT.

2. The problem of food and stuff isn’t new.
 - a. The ancient problem was a bunch of poor people consuming for survival who thought, “If I had MORE, I’d be happy.”
 - b. The modern problem is a nation of rich people consuming for pleasure and thinking, “If I just had MORE, I’d be happy.”
3. Our culture changed the question from “What will I CREATE?” to “What can I acquire or consume?”
4. What’s driving us?
 - a. We perfected CHOICE.
 - b. We took social pressure and comparison from “the moment” to lifelong, and from next door to nationally.
 - c. We accepted twin fallacies:
 - I. You can have it all.
 - II. If you are successful, you should have it all.

B. So what can we do? We can trade “more” for “less, but better.”

1. What could your life be like if you didn’t have the pressure of chasing more and more?
2. “Better” is weird. People have trouble seeing it at home or work, but everybody can see it at a funeral.