

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

WHAT MATTERS TO GOD

By Alicia M. Rodriguez

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

"There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?' And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, "Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!"' But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God."

Reflection

The other night as I was reflecting on today's gospel reading, I started looking around my room and thought about what my necessities are, and what are extra material goods that I don't necessarily need. Turns out I have a lot more than what I need, and very rarely do I use a lot of those items. The next day I started cleaning out my room and making piles of things to donate to those who will make better use of them.

After my cleaning spree I started to think what some of the things are that take up space in my heart and reduce my desire to do the things that God is calling me to do. I realized that there is a lot of fear and anxiety of trying to do so ... and failing. I then got stuck on the phrase "what matters to God."

I realized that what matters to God is that I have faith and trust in what is being asked of me. God is all-knowing and would never want to see me fail or get hurt. God knows me better than I know myself and therefore does not give me impossible tasks to do. Sure, they may not be easy, but they are tasks that God knows I have the capability of doing -- and doing well -- if I trust and believe.

How wonderful is it to know that we are tasked with great things by someone who can see our greatness better than we can? Among my favorite Bible verses is Psalm 8:5-7: *"What is man that you are mindful of him, and a son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him little less than a god, crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him rule over the works of your hands, put all things at his feet."*

These verses always remind me that I have been given something far more valuable than any of the material goods that I have, and that eases my anxiety and fear of failing to do what matters to God.

At the same time, I am reminded that when we die, we won't take any material goods with us and, eventually, those goods will either find new homes or be forgotten. However, what we will leave behind are the things that matter to God such as the impact we had on others and the amount of love we gave the dear neighbor.



Red Barn
Photo by Pixabay

For Pondering

- What are some of the items/treasures that are stored in my large barn that distract me from doing the things that matter to God?
 - How can I let go of material goods and find more meaning in building better relationships with God and those around me?
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For Prayer

Prayer for Generosity

*Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God,
Teach me true generosity,
Teach me to serve you as you deserve,
To give without counting the cost,
To fight heedless of wounds,
To labor without seeking rest,
To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward,
Save the knowledge that I have done your will.
Amen.*

Meet the Authors

**Join us Sunday morning, October 27,
for a fun gathering with the writers of our Daily Reflections!**

Learn how each writer decides on the format and content of their reflections, how writing reflections impacts their own spiritual lives, and how YOU can create reflections for yourself and the people you care about. A light brunch buffet will be served.

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