

To Go

The Simplicity of Simplicity

Mark 6:25-34

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1. What is your natural bent? Are you someone who likes to “keep things simple?” Or do you like to “mix it up” with a lot of “cooks in the kitchen?” Explain.
2. If you’re one who likes to simplify things in your life, what are your strategies and/or daily rhythms that promote simplicity?
3. Richard Foster writes, “The Christian Discipline of simplicity is an inward reality that results in an outward life-style.” Have you ever thought of it that way? Do you generally approach simplicity from the inside-out, or from the outside-in? Explain.
4. We looked at 3 keys for the “inward reality” of simplicity...
 - 1) PRIORITY - Seeking God’s Kingdom & His righteousness first.
 - 2) IDENTITY – Knowing Who God is, and therefore, who I am.
 - 3) HUMILITY – A humble heart that receives God’s provision.

Of these three, which comes most naturally to you? Which is most difficult? Explain.

5. Foster suggests “10 Controlling Principles” or evidences of the inward reality of simplicity. Take a look at this list & identify which of these principles are/are not coming out of your life. Discuss with someone – Why or why not?
 - 1) Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.
 - 2) Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.
 - 3) Develop a habit of giving things away.
 - 4) Refuse to be propagandized by the custodians of modern gadgetry (always buying the “next big thing”).
 - 5) Enjoy things without owning them.
 - 6) Develop a deeper appreciation for creation/nature.
 - 7) Look with a healthy skepticism at all “buy now, pay later” schemes.
 - 8) Obey Jesus’ instructions about plain, honest speech (“Yes be yes”; “No be no.”)
 - 9) Reject anything that breeds the oppression of others.
 - 10) Shun anything that distracts you from seeking first the kingdom of God.
6. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. When you share the Gospel – the Good News about Jesus – with people, how do you typically approach it? Have you ever “decided” to simplify it like Paul, and simply preach “Jesus Christ and Him crucified?” If not, why not?