



Resisting the Call of the Mall

Luke 12:15-21, 22-23, 31-32

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Brief History of Consumption

Notes:

We have gone from producing to purchasing.

The suburban lifestyle requires consumption.

Luke 12:15-21, “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.” (NIV)

Consumerism involves storing up things for yourself.

We become takers in all areas of our lives.

This is a foolish way to live because it is empty and temporary.

Being rich toward God means making that which is temporary become the servant of that which is eternal.

Luke 12:22-23, 31-32, “22 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. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes... 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.’” (NIV)

Spiritual Practice: Simplicity: I focus on God’s eternal kingdom so that all temporary things are put in proper perspective.

Simplicity Involves:

▪ **Identity:** My identity should shape my consumption. My consumption should not shape my identity.

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.’” (NIV)

▪ **Productivity:** Because God is a Creator and we are created in his image, we too are creators. What am I creating?

Genesis 1:1, 27, “1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (NIV)

▪ **Frugality:** Living below my means simplifies my life.

Questions to be a more conscientious consumer:

Luxury? *What* is this, a need or a want?

Labor? *How* was this produced?

Local? *Where* do I consume?

▪ **Generosity:** A lifestyle of consistent generous giving transforms me from a taker to a giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7, “6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (NIV)

▪ **Liberty:** I can live freely and give myself away because God has given me all the things I need.

Luke 12:31-32, “31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.” (NIV)

The issue of consumerism is not so much selfishness or greed, but a lack of faith. Do I trust God?