

WHAT'S ENOUGH?

Jesus asked, *"Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"* (Matthew 6:25-26).

In my library is a book written by Jeremiah Burroughs (1769-1855) titled "The Rare Jewel Of Christian Contentment." Christian contentment is indeed a rare jewel. It should be a very common ornament but alas, it is not always so.

Recently I was in the very humble home of a sweet and aged Christian couple who subsisted on a very meager income. Although a poor man and woman who have but little earthly goods they are rich in heavenly grace. They live a more contented life than their rich neighbors who have great tangible resources. They reminded me of a story I heard of an American businessman visiting in Mexico.

He was standing at the pier of a small coastal Mexican village when a tiny boat with just one fisherman docked. Inside the boat were several large yellow fin tuna. The business man asked how long it took him to catch them. The Mexican replied, "Only a little while."

The American then asked why he didn't stay out and catch more fish. The Mexican said he had enough to support his family's immediate needs for several days. The American then asked, "What do you do with the rest of your time?" He answered, "I sleep late, play with my children, take a siesta with my wife, Maria, stroll into the village each evening where I sip wine and play guitar with my amigos, I have a full and busy life senior."

The American scoffed, "I have a Harvard MBA and I could help you. You should spend more time fishing and with the proceeds buy a bigger boat, catch more fish, with the proceeds from the bigger boat you could buy more boats and catch more fish. You could open your own cannery, sell to big distributors. You could then leave this village and move to Mexico City or LA and run your expanding enterprise."

The fisherman asked, "But senior, how long will all this take?" The American replied, "15 to 20 years." "But what then senior?" The American said, "That's the best part. You could then sell your company and become very rich, you would make millions." "Millions, senior? Then what?" The American said, "Then you would retire. Move to a small coastal fishing village where you would sleep late, fish a little, play with your kids, take a siesta with your wife, stroll into the village in the evenings where you could sip wine & play your guitar with your amigos."

The Mexican replied, "But Senior, I do not need all the worries that such a life would bring. When do you Americans enjoy your family and life? I have enough and am happy now."

That story brings into focus the question, "What's enough" G.K. Chesterton said, "There are two ways to get enough: One is to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less and less." That is why Paul wrote, "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." (1 Tim 6:8) Again, Jesus asked, *"Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"* (Matthew 6:25-26). I believe He answered His own question

when we come to Matthew 10:25 for there He said, *"It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master."*

Did you get that? *"It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master."* Jesus' emphasis in that statement is not upon "getting" but upon "being." Are we like our Master, Jesus? His statement runs counter to the world's culture of greed, grab and graft and brings into clear focus that which is all important. It is not what we possess but Who possesses us.

Having enough is not having an abundance of the material but being like the Master. So, What's enough? Do you have enough likeness to Jesus that those who know you can say of you, "there is a person who is content with Christ, there is a truly contented Christian?" For you, what's enough?

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