

STUFF

When you hear the word Stuff, what do you think about? Recently, my pastor preached using Matthew 6: 19-24 as his reference. He was preaching regarding tithing. Not a fun subject, however, I am so glad my pastor will talk about subjects, good and bad, knowing that God wants us to know how He wants us to act. Thank you Pastor John!

Back to Stuff, during the talk, my pastor gave some facts about stuff. People spend over \$12 billion to store stuff. I have been to a lot of your homes, and know that several of you have stuff. What is stuff? Stuff is things that are in your storage unit, closets, garages, attics, etc that you just don't need. Stuff is those things that collect dust, take up room, and some day, you ask, why do I have this.

This all brings back memories of a meeting my wife and I had with our pastor before we got married. During one of our pre-marital counseling sessions, the pastor encouraged us to write down some things that we wanted out of the marriage, and what we wanted each to do. Both of us came from families who collected stuff. The garage held so much stuff that we couldn't park our cars in it. So much stuff that my dad built another building, so that he could store more stuff.

Similar situation for my wife. I can remember, our surprise, when we both said to each other, that we didn't want to store up a bunch of stuff. We agreed before we got married that one of our family rules would be, if we didn't use something for one year, then we must get rid of it. That way, we wouldn't store up stuff.

Over the years, we modified this rule slightly, as some tools, backpacking equipment, snow removal systems, and other items, may not be used each year, because we knew we would need them eventually.

But even with this exception rule, we still go through our house, garage, closets, shed, and any place else we store items. And truly, if we haven't used it for at least 1 year, we get rid of it.

My friends have joked about this. However, we have found that by ridding ourselves of our "stuff", we can bless those who don't have "stuff". We recently decided that since we hadn't rid our bicycles for over 1 year, and it was doubtful that we would use them this year, we should get rid of our bikes. We let people know that we had bikes to give away, and no one wanted them. Until someone who works with a ministry that helps woman who just got out of prison heard. They asked if we were serious. Of course. Apparently, there were two women who were looking for something as simple as a bike for transportation, and were praying for God to deliver. Guess what. These 2 women have our old bikes, treat them like they are brand new, and are happy with them. We were able to make a little more room in our garage.

One of my very good friends, decided, maybe the Phillips' are right, and this year, he and his wife went through their house, and got rid of a lot of stuff that they had been storing. Stuff they didn't need, but stored it anyway. They tried it, threw some things away, and donated other things to Goodwill and the Salvation Army, and others, they donated to smaller ministries. They were amazed how much more room they had in their house, and what a great feeling it was to bless others with their "stuff".

Matthew 6:20 says to Stockpile treasure in heaven. So many of us try to stockpile "stuff" on earth. How about trying something new? Try taking the stockpile of stuff that you have, and bless someone else with it. Just maybe, you might be stockpiling treasures in heaven. FYI, the Phillips' stuff month is January. That's only a couple of months away. Who knows what stuff is going this year. All we know, stuff will go.

Kory Phillips Ministries.