

Blessings on  
Grandparents Day!  
Steven, Sara, Ethan,  
Liza, & Pastor Ben Motz



Sunday, September 10, 2023

## Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

***The only antidote to materialism is giving, because materialism is all about getting. —Rick Warren***

In Stephen King's novel, *Needful Things*, later made into a movie, the people of a small town in Maine called Castle Rock will do just about anything to obtain valuable objects in a store called, of course, "Needful Things."

When they enter the store, they see things they cannot live without — a Sandy Koufax baseball card, a piece of petrified wood alleged to be from Noah's Ark and magical objects that cure disease, predict the future or show the past as it really happened.

The people who want these things don't even have to use money to buy them; they only have to perform strange little favors for the mysterious Mr. Gaunt, the shopkeeper.

Soon, these favors have thrust the town into turmoil, and people began to realize that the things they thought were necessary to ensure their happiness were nothing more than shabby, useless nothings that bring heartache and distress.

Sometimes, we, too, believe that we absolutely must have this thing or that thing. Or, perhaps what we want is not an *object* but an *outcome*. We fervently desire that some awkward or unwanted situation turns out in a way that pleases us. We would love to have control of the situation, but since that is not always possible, we pray, hope, manipulate and cajole, twist and turn — do everything we can to get what we want. We firmly believe it's what we need.

Here's what the Bible says about what we need: "God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

There's more! "Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today" (Matthew 6:32b-34).

Is it wrong to wish for or to desire material possessions? Of course not! The danger only lies when our longing turns to coveting lust. It was the sin of the Israelites, and it is too often a problem that takes up far too much of our energy. This reflects a lack of trust in God.

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to shape my needs and wants so that they are aligned with your will. In your name. Amen.*

**Daily Bible Readings**

- Sunday:** 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- Monday:** 2 Chronicles 23-25
- Tuesday:** 2 Chronicles 26-29
- Wednesday:** 2 Chronicles 30-32
- Thursday:** 2 Chronicles 33-36
- Friday:** Ezekiel 1-3
- Saturday:** Psalms 103-105

*Verse to Remember*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits.*

—Psalm 103:2

## PROVERBIAL MIX-UP

The proverbs below have been split in half and rearranged. Match the phrase in the column on the right to the proper beginning in the column on the left.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>_____ 1. All that glitters ...</p> <p>_____ 2. Live and ...</p> <p>_____ 3. Practice makes ...</p> <p>_____ 4. Where there's a will ...</p> <p>_____ 5. From little acorns ...</p> <p>_____ 6. A stitch in time ...</p> <p>_____ 7. Don't count your chickens ...</p> <p>_____ 8. Nothing ventured ...</p> <p>_____ 9. Two wrongs ...</p> <p>_____ 10. Every cloud ...</p> <p>_____ 11. Out of sight ...</p> <p>_____ 12. Honesty ...</p> <p>_____ 13. Many hands ...</p> <p>_____ 14. You can't have your cake ...</p> <p>_____ 15. Better late ...</p> | <p>A. ... is not gold.</p> <p>B. ... make light work.</p> <p>C. ... perfect.</p> <p>D. ... has a silver lining.</p> <p>E. ... saves nine.</p> <p>F. ... nothing gained.</p> <p>G. ... don't make a right.</p> <p>H. ... before they hatch.</p> <p>I. ... there's a way.</p> <p>J. ... than never.</p> <p>K. ... let live.</p> <p>L. ... big oaks grow.</p> <p>M. ... is the best policy.</p> <p>N. ... out of mind.</p> <p>O. ... and eat it, too.</p> |
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*"To watch over mouth and tongue is to keep out of trouble."*

—Proverbs 21:23

**WHAT PROVERB DO YOU SEE HERE?**

**pudproofing**

Answers: 1A, 2K, 3C, 4I, 5L, 6E, 7H, 8F, 9G, 10D, 11N, 12M, 13B, 14O, 15J.

Hidden proverb: The proof is in the pudding.