

It is the Father's good pleasure, what He delights in, to give Marianna His kingdom, the inheritance this very day. It is so true for you. Jesus there. The man from the crowd was only asking for the inheritance to be divided fairly. Imagine a man who leaves behind two heirs, brothers, without a will. The older brother is clever, snags for himself the family farm along with all the furniture and possessions. The younger brother simply wants to obtain a clock his grandfather built and a boat that he and his father restored together. Would you call such a man covetous? Tell him, just walk away, let brother keep all the stuff? Would you warn him that life does not consist of things or possessions? Jesus does.

Even your mother taught you that when you point a finger at someone else there are always three pointing back at you. The man who cries to Jesus for justice, furious over his brother's greed, is himself obsessed with stuff. Stuff that rusts, decays, stuff that cannot keep you safe, draw you closer to God or give lasting joy.

The sooner you realize all your things, even a WW2 medal and flag that draped over your grandpa's casket, that old family heirloom you keep locked away, all your stuff will soon, very soon belong to someone you don't know or in a landfill, maybe some of your special stuff will pass to your heir a generation or two; but eventually in a rummage sale for pennies. Some else will some be driving your car and living in your home.

And foremost the sooner you realize everything you have, all your stuff, is all a gift from God and not yours -the more content, less coveting you will be, the less you will obsessive over money and things.

Yes, what is it that make you content; happy, true happiness? In what do you find joy? Think about the times in your life when you've been the most content, the happiest. Think about it. When, where. What does it take to make you happy? Where do you look? Is it in having enough money to do things. Is it in things? Is your joy, happiness rooted in you getting what you want? Even your daydreams of having more stuff, or winning a lottery expose you.

You've been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is. Set your mind on things above. That's not about heaven. Our looking to **things above** is looking to a man -**where Christ is.**

When you forget that, you forfeit so much joy, happiness God intends for you already today. That's the point of St. Paul's letter to the Colossians, Christ is the whole point. For those Colossians (still true for you Kansans and a few Missourians that snuck in), false teachings in the church distracting people from the treasures Christ gives, burdening the people with new rules and empty philosophy. Earthly enticements distracting people from the joy and treasure in Christ even now.

We certainly can't pretend we aren't earthly minded. St. Paul writes, **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you, immorality, impure passion, evil desires, covetous- which is idolatry:** A call to repentance; we fail each day at that list

Paul cites. We're so easily enticed into idolatry of you, fall into temptations, drawn into the self-centered pleasures and stuff.

Our culture breeds this idolatry of 'me'. It affects you more that you care to think. Do not overlook your sin, don't downplay it, you're not that greedy or selfish. We all grow numb to many sins. Dare not ask God to forgive a few times you failed, and, well the other times, you really didn't harm anyone, weren't that bad, not as bad as some people. **Put to death!** put upon the death of Christ, daily repentance of your old self, as Paul writes, the **new self**, the baptismal child emerging each day.

Set your minds on things above, is not looking up, but simply look upon a man on a cross. **Things above**. Looking to the font, to the table, look to His Word, look to His servant forgiving sins in His stead, faithful preaching, teaching the Word - look to where He directs you, where He is. You actually set your mind on things above by looking down -to receive His very body and blood, **where Christ is**.

When Christ who is your life appears, then you will appear with him in glory. Now, that's about heaven. At that moment, everyone will see the vanity, just how futile earthly things have been, how unnecessary what we've stress over, how unimportant some things have been.

The times your life you were happiest that you thought of -with your family, or a simpler time, a vacation, a wedding, holding a newborn, or the love in that warm embrace you remember, that you wish you could go back to and never let go. The times you've been happy here, are but a faint glimpse to the joy you will have above, **where Christ is**. To embrace Him, embrace your loved ones again. O Christian don't lose sight of what is in store.

Yes, I know, we have to deal with earthly things today. Well, Paul pointing us to things above- but setting our minds on things above -has everything to do with the way you live now. Why Christ baptize Marianna, you. When you own eternity, when He is here to give Himself as the inheritance of heaven -you persevere through the struggles of this life; joy that nothing in this life can take away. That is the word of Jesus to the brothers feuding over earthly things.

Living your life, the last 3 words of Jesus in today's gospel, being **rich towards God**. **Being rich toward God**, the gift of joy in good things God gives us and be a blessing to others. Family, friends. But even more so, **being rich towards God** -in the person of Jesus. **Set are mind on things above**, when the thing you value most in this life is what Jesus gave you on the cross. How can you measure the infinite worth of your Baptism? Can your eyes behold anything of greater worth than a little piece of bread and a sip of wine? For in these the very life, presence of the God-man is given. When Christ who IS your life...

Quit looking for something out there. The only true happiness, lasting joy, contentment found here, the treasures of heaven. **Set your mind on things above**. **Being rich towards God**. you are rich in that which cannot and will not ever be taken from you. As with Marianna today, forever and yours. Your Father delights to give you the treasures of heaven, His kingdom. **Where Christ is**.