

01.17.2010 (Sun)

Night Is For Rest (Lk 12:16-21)

In foolishness, there is no distinction. A foolish person is foolish anytime, anywhere. Sure enough, a rich man is just as foolish in the day as he is at night. These were the thoughts of one such rich man:

*"What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops. This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat drink and be merry.'"*

When did he have these thoughts? At night (Lk 12:20). Night is the condition of having no light. The darkness of a soul in the midst of anxiety, or the darkness of a struggling heart in ignorance, or the foolishness of the mind put sunlight to shame. "What do I do?" "Where do I go?" "How do I live?" These kinds of thoughts can not be settled with even the light of the universe nor any light from nuclear power.

The night that the rich man faced was his own foolishness. There exists no virtue or goodness in foolishness. Ps 14:1 tells us that, *"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good."* Accordingly, there was no room for God in the rich man's life. Because he did not know God, the rich man did not know where to go or even how to live out his life. He was far from the will of God.

That is darkness as it is foolishness. A fool is one who says that there is no God in his heart. This kind of person does not have love. How frightening would it be to live in a world without love but only indifference and heartlessness? His only matter of interest was his own convenience and fulfillment. If that rich man would have been here today, he probably would have lived in a castle enjoying the latest and best things of life.

Simply put, he was a self-centered man. He thought the world revolved around him. The disaster in Haiti would probably not have affected this person in any way. Haiti is an extremely impoverished country that is only about one-fourth the size of South Korea with about 9 million inhabitants whose yearly income is at most \$1,000 person. On January 12, 2010, due to a devastating earthquake, about 120,000 people have been killed.

However, Haitians are not the only ones in this world who are suffering and in need of help. In all ages, so many people have been killed, hurt, or lost all of their possessions due to natural disasters, wars, or other hardships. There are many people in poor and unfortunate situations. Still, the Bible reveals to us that people have been created for the glory of God (Is 43:7, 21).

Thus, even if we speak different languages and have different cultures, and have many other differences, we are one family. It would be abnormal not to feel compassion for those who fall down, are hurting, or are dying. That is because we are one family. Everyone looks out for each other in a family. A family supports each other.

That may explain why in English, the word *"family"* is derived from the Latin word *famulus* which means *"servant"*. Yet, the rich man had no interest or consideration for anyone else. He also did not make the most of every opportunity. He did not act in goodness according to God's will. All he did was for his own pleasure, his own satisfaction, and in his own self-centered life.

In Eph 5:16-17, God says this: *"Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is!"* Beloved friends, we have only one light - the light of the Word (Jn 1:1-4). This light of God breaks down the foolishness of man. *The life that is within the Word is the light of men* (Jn 1:4).

In this light, all thoughts are made alive and plans succeed (Jn 1:1-3, Is 55:11). With love, isn't the purpose of life made clear? Nothing can be done without love. This is the message of 1 Cor 13:1-3. Please do not forget that goodness arises from love.

Dearest friends, if we do not have the Word of God in our hearts, we will actually face the darkness of night in all aspects of our life. Thus, the Lord tells us to take courage and have no fear (Mk 6:50). Don't be afraid! This means to not become night! Ps 84:11 says that God is a sun. If God is in our hearts, there can be no night. Does not the beginning of death start with greed?

Just as Jas 1:15 tells us, *"Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown gives birth to death,"* the rich man had become greedy during the night. The rich man had died in the night. He did not give thanks in the night. He brought upon himself the night of greed.

Dearest friends, in heaven there will be no more night (Rev 22:5)! In that place there is no night of jealousy, no night of jealousy and avarice, and no night of deceit and sin! *"There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever."*

Because there is not night of sin, God, and God only, becomes our light. Put all your faith in only the Word of God. Have a faith with action! Then the night of man will be done away with. Overcome the night of sin! You will have rest that comes from the Word as you act upon faith!