



The Redemption of Scrooge

Date: Saturday, Dec 15, 2018

Title: Less is More

Text: [Matthew 6:31-33](#)

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed 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.

Over the past week we have been discussing the Ghost of Christmas Past. Starting tomorrow, at worship, we will consider the Ghost of Christmas present.

I'm sure you have noticed how much busyness and worry dominates our lives and culture. Much time is spent rehearsing the past and worrying about the future. Leaving precious little attention for being present in the present. Why is it that the more we have, it seems, the less content we are and the more worried we are that there will not be enough in the future: Not enough to maintain, enough to consume, enough to protect, and to preserve. The more we have, the more worried we are about the future. Why is that?

This lack of contentment then forces us into decisions that mortgage our future away; credit cards are maxed out, and our schedules are over booked. Both money and time are committed and spent ahead of time, leaving us constantly frantic and without any freedom to respond in the present. Part of Scrooge's reality is his acute sense that there will not be enough.

Jesus offered a different path. God knows what we need and is able to provide for us. Though our needs are not the same as our wants trusting God and learning contentment removes much worrying and stress.

Instead of striving after "getting", we are invited to focus on doing what God wants and whatever else we need will be provided for us as well. Trust God, not ourselves.

Thought to ponder: Less is more. Strive after what God wants and pursue it.

Prayer: Forgive us, Gracious God, for behaving as if you cannot be trusted. Help us strive for what you want and pursue it because there is where peace and confidence in you is found. We ask this in the name Christ, our Lord. Amen.

I will not post a devotional tomorrow, Sunday. Let's gather for worship instead.