

“Living Light”

A sermon by Pastor Steve Easterday-McPadden
for FUMC Grand Junction, Sunday, March 14, 2021

This sermon can be listened to on the FUMCGJ
website: <https://www.fumcgj.org/sermons/>

Scripture Text:

Luke 12:27-34 [NLT]

TO THE SCRIPTURES

The text from Luke and its launch point into the song
from Michael Card today.

SERMON THOUGHTS

♪ “Things We Leave Behind”

- Simon/Peter / nets and pride
- Matthew / taxes, \$\$ / position / power and
greed
- Us: Jesus says, “Lay all your treasures
aside...”

Things We Leave Behind

Michael Card

(*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzIz4QXMMBw&t=41s>*)

There sits Simon, so foolishly wise
Proudly he's tending his nets
Then Jesus calls, and the boats drift away
And all that he owns he forgets

But more than the nets he abandoned that day:
He found that his pride was soon drifting away
And it's hard to imagine the freedom we find
From the things we leave behind

Matthew was mindful of taking the tax,
And pressing the people to pay
But hearing the call, he responded in faith
And followed the Light and the Way
Leaving the people so puzzled he found,
The greed in his heart was no longer around
And it's hard to imagine the freedom we find
From the things we leave behind

Every heart needs to be set free,
From possessions that hold it so tight
'Cause freedom's not found in the things that we own,
It's the power to do what is right
With Jesus, our only possession,
Then giving becomes our delight
And we can't imagine the freedom we find
From the things we leave behind

We show a love for the world in our lives
By worshipping goods we possess
Jesus says, “Lay all your treasures aside
“And love God above all the rest”...’cause
When we say 'no' to the things of the world
We open our hearts to the love of the Lord
And it's hard to imagine the freedom we find
Oh, and it's hard to imagine the freedom we find...
From the things we leave behind

SERMON THOUGHTS

- The question to take with us today is, “What are *my* treasures?” They aren’t all material things that grip our hearts so tightly...(*Anna’s Children’s message, along with pride, fear, judgement, etc.*)

The idea here is not guilt but, as the song lifted up, freedom from too much that holds us captive and separates us from a vibrant life of minimal worry and maximal joy with God in Christ.

- I do want to say something about “possessions”, though, particularly in the context of our NLI webinar we were a part of last week.

To be totally honest, most of us have the luxury of approaching this business of our having too many possessions from the standpoint of “OPTION”. That is, we can look at thinning out our “stuff” as a spiritual discipline this Lenten season.

There are a lot of folks in the world today for whom this isn’t an option. Rather, the poor live in a constant state of not having enough. (*Honor the complexity of the subject, but quote Fr. Greg Boyle’s comment about the kind of Christian community God would recognize: “Where we stand in awe of the poor and the incredible burden they have to carry and not in judgment for the way they carry it.”

CONCLUSION AND PRAYER

♪ Jim Werner: “His Eye Is on the Sparrow”