**Hoarding**

**Beware of all covetousness,**
**because life does not depend on abundance of wealth.**
**(*St. Luke 12:15*)**

**Observe the ravens; for they do not sow or reap,**

**and they have no storerooms and barns;**

**and yet God feeds them;**

**how much more important are you than the birds?**

***(St. Luke 12:24)***

**A local charity had never received a donation from the town’s banker, so the director made a phone call. “Our records show you make $500,000 a year, yet you haven’t given a penny to charity,” the director began. “Wouldn’t you like to help the community?” The banker replied, “Did your research show that my mother is ill, with extremely expensive medical bills?” “Um, no,” humbled the director. “Or that my brother is blind and unemployed? Or that my sister’s husband died, leaving her broke with four kids?” “I … I … I had no idea.” “So,” said the banker, “if I don’t give them any money, why would I give any to you?” *(Reader’s Digest)***

**Care for those around you … And give. Give in any way you can of whatever you possess. To give is to love. To withhold is to wither. Care less for your harvest than for how it is shared and your life will have meaning and your heart will have peace. *(Kent Neurn)***

**Ancient Egypt banned export of cats. That made them valuable elsewhere. So Phoenician smugglers supplied the cat black market around the Mediterranean. Didn’t last long. Swift breeders outside Egypt ruined the business. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Americans are hoarding their old phones. Only 20 percent of Americans sell or recycle their old phones, and more than half say they have two or more unused cell phones lying around. Collectively, those phones stack up to a trade-in value of $34 billion. *(MarketWatch.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 1, 2013)***

**An ambitious farmer, unhappy about the yield of his crops, heard of a highly recommended new seed corn. He bought some and produced a crop that was so abundant his astonished neighbors asked him to sell them a portion of the new seed. But the farmer, afraid that he would lose a profitable competitive advantage, refused. The second year the new seed did not produce as good a crop, and when the third-year crop was still worse it dawned upon the farmer that his prized corn was being pollinated by the inferior grade of corn from his neighbors’ fields. *(Ralph L. Woods, in Wellsprings of Wisdom)***

**The hazards of hoarding: In its early stages, hoarding begins with an inability to throw away junk mail, newspapers, and magazines. Stacks of paper and junk turn into towers, and over time, hoarders find it increasingly difficult to throw anything away, including garbage. Once considered rare, hoarders make up 3 to 5 percent of the U.S. population, and more than 85 towns and cities have established task forces to deal with the hoarders in their communities, The New York Times reports. The behavior is still poorly understood, but brain scans of hoarders found that just the thought of disposing of junk mail or old newspapers causes abnormal activity in regions linked to decision-making. “There is safety, comfort, and value in their possessions,” says Randy O. Frost, a Smith College psychologist. As extreme clutter takes over, it buries ovens, showers, and beds. Utility bills get lost, and the water and lights are turned off, leading to unsanitary conditions and an alarming number of fires – started by candles lit in place of electricity – which can engulf neighboring homes. Many hoarders strongly resist any help with their problem. “A therapist told me I should at least throw out my papers, but I couldn’t,” a hoarder told local officials in California. “There were checks in there somewhere.” *(The Week magazine, June 14, 2013)***

**It was not wealth Jesus condemned but the methods by which it was acquired and the greed in hoarding it. *(George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light)***

**Keep your money circulating. If you hoard it for a rainy day, you may have to build an ark. *(John Randolph Price)***

**In the 1970s, the economy was disrupted because the price of oil surged, a result of the major oil producers’ coordinated restriction of supply. *(David From, in The Atlantic magazine, June, 2025 issue, on page 12)***

**“If you don’t share,” says Chi Chi Rodriguez, a stalwart on the Senior PGA Tour, “you may have material success, but you’ll be very poor in spirit.” Chi Chi recalls learning this lesson as a young boy growing up in a tiny, tin-roofed shack in rural Puerto Rico: It was 2 a.m. when my father woke me because he heard someone out back. We crept outside and found a machete-wielding neighbor standing beside the small banana grove that fed our family. Despite the fact that the man could have killed him, Father said, “Give me the machete.” Then Father cut a bunch of bananas and handed half of them to his neighbor. “From now on,” he said, “anything you want back here you come to my door and ask for it. And make sure you leave some for my kids too.” The compassionate way he handled that man was one of the many things my father did that influenced my life. That night he taught me that takers eat well, but givers sleep well. *(Daniel R. Levine, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Bruce Barton some years ago wrote an effective parable concerning the idea of giving: “There are two seas in Palestine. One is fresh and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks. Trees spread their branches over it, and stretch out their thirsty roots to sip of its healing waters. Along its shores the children play, as children played when He was there. He loved it. He could look across its silver surface when He spoke His parables. And on a rolling plain not far away He fed five thousand people. The river Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills. Men build their houses near to it, and birds their nests; and every kind of life is happier because it is there. The river Jordan flows on south into another sea. Here is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaf, no song of birds, no children's laughter. Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs heavy above its water, and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink. What makes this mighty difference in these neighbor seas? Not the river Jordan. It empties the same good water into both. Nor the soil in which they lie, nor the country round about. This is the difference. The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan. For every drop that flows into it another drop flows out. The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets, it keeps. The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. The other sea gives nothing. It is named Dead.” (A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 89)**

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