

SATURDAY, MAY 20

Colossians 3:1-17

Possessed

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. . . . Colossians 3:2

When the building in which I had lived for four years closed down, I marveled at the mountains of stuff my neighbors were struggling to carry from their small apartments. I wondered how little living space they had left once all those clothes, electronics, decorations, and storage boxes were piled in around them. My own space had been pretty bare, but there was always plenty of room for the regular stream of friends coming in and out to visit.

Culture has a strange way of defining people's worth by what they own: how much they have, the quality of their possessions, the brand names, etc. But Jesus makes clear that the acquisition of stuff isn't what defines life. Accumulating objects doesn't add true value to one's life. On the other hand, accumulating character, wisdom, faith, spiritual virtues, and healthy relationships does add value. If I spend most of my time and energy gathering possessions, then I may not invest adequate time living the abundant life God desires for me.

**PRAYER:** I am grateful, dear God, that you are the source of my value and identity. Amen.

Megan L. Anderson—Kokomo, Indiana

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SUNDAY, MAY 21

John 14:25-27

Knock, Knock

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything. . . . John 14:26

I worked as a nurse in an intensive care unit when this type of unit was a new phenomenon in hospital services. Rules for visitation were posted and strictly enforced: immediate family members only, two visitors at a time, ten minutes at the beginning of each hour.

One day when I heard a knock on the door, I refused admittance to an unfamiliar man dressed in a business suit. When I questioned him, he admitted he had no family in the ICU. He knocked again. I patiently apologized, explained the rules, and shut the door. This happened three more times. The fourth time he said, "I am Fred Randolph, the hospital administrator." I let him in.

I was reminded how gently and persistently the Holy Spirit knocked at my heart and mind seeking admittance. I am so thankful I eventually answered the knock and let Christ in. The presence of the Divine has brought peace and comfort as I have faced the intensive cares of life.

**PRAYER:** Thank you, God, for patiently continuing to knock and waiting for me to let you into my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Mason K. Brown—Forest Grove, Oregon