

DAY 2

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, isn’t the Father’s, but is the world’s. The world is passing away with its lusts, but he who does God’s will remains forever.” 1 John 2:16-17

“Hold the line! Stay with me! ... Brothers, what we do in life echoes in eternity”
Maximus Decimus Meridius(Gladiator)

CHASING AN ILLUSION

“Are you a student teacher?”
“No, I have my license. I'm an interim teacher.”
“What does that mean?”

“I’m not permanent.”

Not permanent, what position is permanent? I thought as he hurriedly left me. For sure, every job is temporal, notwithstanding how long it may last. Saddam Hussein ruled his country for about twenty-four years before he was killed. Robert Mugabe ruled for thirty-seven years, first as Prime Minister, and then as President before he was removed by the military of his country in 2017. Muammar Gaddafi ruled for almost forty-two years before an opposition group killed him.

Permanent about earthly position or wealth is an illusion, and our belief in it has caused us to pursue material wealth to the detriment of our souls. It influences our attitudes towards God, people, and how we live our lives. We forget we are on Earth for a time, and that our efforts cannot gain for us a minute more beyond the time God ordained for us. We overlook that the only thing that will count for or against us is our actions and inactions towards God and our fellow human beings while we live.

In short, every material thing we possess, including our lives is temporary, not permanent. Our valuables last only for a short while. We also change like the sky. We first come into this world as newborns. We grow to be teenagers, and finally, we become senior citizens until our

death. Our end may occur at any stage of the cycle. Life, like water, renews itself with every new death and birth.

Why then do we hold onto things until they are ripped from our hands while we live, or at death? Why don't we be more generous with our time, talent, and treasure, in service of God and neighbor, as God commanded us?

Jesus Christ said: "Don't lay up treasures for yourselves on the Earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves don't break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Have we ever taken a moment to meditate on life after death? Do we believe that Heaven and Hell exist? How will we feel if we acquire all the riches of the earth and miss Heaven? In silence, let us meditate on our possible fate if we die today. Let us also think about what we need to start doing today as children of God.

PRAYER: Psalm 25

MADE NEW

I made friends in high places

I felt secured in my accomplishments

Strife came like storms, and my friends deserted me

I was crushed and distraught, but no one cared for my life

My worldly goods were gone, and I existed like a living dead

In my soul anguish, I heard Jesus say,

"Come to me all who are heavy burdened,

And I'll give you rest."

The light of his words overpowered my life

His grace dispelled the darkness that enslaved me

I came alive

Thank you, Jesus, for saving me