

## E-DEVOTION FOR FEBRUARY 16

We have been spending some of our 'covid time' going through our many possessions. There are some things that we have carted around with us for far too long. Like our high school and college annuals. Those books are big! And we have moved them many times. I can't imagine that when we are no longer on this earth our children 'pouring' over them with such gratitude that we had saved them.

So, what to do with such things? It really makes us realize what is important to us and what doesn't matter so much.

We all know what the Bible has to say... just start reading in Matthew and you will have clear direction... "*What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul?*" And it does go on and on.... "*Do not store up for yourself riches here on earth*"... etc., etc.

I wouldn't really call our old annuals 'riches here on earth,' but it has made me realize that I have spent a great deal of my life acquiring things that now I need to figure out where they should go. Ironic, isn't it? It's kind of a soul searching as we begin to think about what it is that really is important in our lives.

In my first parish I came to know a very wise old guy. His name was Sigval. He probably had more money than many of those Red River Valley farmers, but his house was nothing more than a shack. He had a few pieces of furniture, very simply decorated. But his wealth was really in his view of life. When we would visit, I would go from that farmstead filled with perspective. He had a way of helping me to zero in on the important matters of life. He had a deep, deep soul. So when I reflect on those words... "*What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul*" ... I think of Sigval. He helped me put those words in perspective.

Not to say things aren't important. They certainly are, and they give us a great deal of pleasure. Sometimes we just need to do a little 'house cleaning'... a 'soul searching' to keep us focused on what really matters.

Wash your hands. Fold them and bow your head. Pray for direction to keep focused on the really important things. And please, if you have not already done so... get the vaccine. Don't just do it for yourself, do it for all of us.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, help us not to be so focused on what it is that we need every day. Help us to see the bigger picture. Give us faith to find pleasure in the simple things in life. Keep us focused. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Pastor Ken Nyhusmoen