



Greetings from Pastor Rich Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Saludos en el nombre de Jesucristo!

Like many of my colleagues in ministry, I have a lot of books. Over the years, I have collected hundreds, in fact. So, as I have been packing my things for my move to New Mexico, I have found it best to put these books in three categories. The first category are those books that I can't live without for more than a week or two. I have put them in a box marked "Urgent". The second category are those books which I have found little or no value in and which I have decided either need to be sold, given away or simply thrown away. I have put those in boxes labeled "Junk". But the vast majority of books are those which I regard as valuable, but I don't feel I need to have them with me at all times. These are books which I have put in unlabeled boxes and put in the family garage. There they will wait to be placed on a moving truck and be reunited with me when they arrive in New Mexico next June.

I can't help but think that these books are a metaphor for my life of Christian discipleship. Sometimes, I think I am being a wonderful disciple as I follow faithfully in the steps of Jesus wherever the way may lead. Other times, I think I am being a worthless disciple as I knowingly stray from the path of Jesus' footsteps. But most of the time I think of myself as neither wonderful nor worthless. In these times, I am like a disciple who follows slowly and hesitatingly as I find myself in a state of moral mediocrity.

As we enter the season of Advent this Sunday, we enter the season in which we prepare for the coming of the Lord among us. As we prepare for the coming of the Lord, I think it is obvious that we should want to clean out all the junk in our lives that is morally worthless. But what about those parts of our lives that are neither good nor bad, but morally mediocre? When have we followed in the footsteps of Jesus, but done so with too little enthusiasm or too much hesitation? Let us pray that God grants us the strength to clean out those parts of our lives as well, so that our hearts may be pure in our love for God and our neighbor.

This Sunday, our scripture readings are Isaiah 64: 1-9 and First Corinthians 1:3-9. My sermon is titled "Strength in the Lord." I look forward to seeing all of you at 9am!

Blessings,

Pastor Rich