

“Echoes of the Heart”

Reflections on Life and Community Living

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Just a little more. How much do you want in life? Or, stated differently, how much do you think you need? How much income and security? How much knowledge and insight? How much reassurance about health and safety?

If we tell the truth, what we really want is as much reassurance of certainty that we can get. Hey, it's the *human situation*.

Always, we'll take *just a little more*; just a little more certitude, a little more confirmation; just a little more assurance, a little more satisfaction.

A man saw a new car in a parking lot one day and he noticed the *dealership license plate* in front that read, COMPLETELY SATISFIED.

If you think about it, that's an audacious claim to make about any automobile—COMPLETELY SATISFIED.

Later this same man, a man of faith, began to reflect on this: *What if God asked me to wear a sign around my neck all day that says COMPLETELY SATISFIED? Would I be willing to do it, he asked himself? Am I completely satisfied as a person of faith?*

With all the various ups and downs of life; the lost jobs, fragmented relationships, troubling health reports—along with the endless worrying about one thing or another. *Are we completely satisfied?*

Multi-millionaire, John D. Rockefeller was asked one time, how much a person needs to feel financially secure in life? Without blinking an eye, he answered back, *just a little more*.

An anxious people. As we reflect on our lives, it's normal and natural for us to want to feel as secure as we can in our lives; to feel like we have enough of the basic necessities to care for our families and on and on.

However, do any of us think we ever have enough? Haven't we been acculturated to think that—always—what we need is *just a little more*?

And to the extent, therefore, that we feel a gap, or a widening chasm, between what we have and what we think we need, we're *an anxious people*.

Part of the dilemma of the *human situation* is that—unfailingly—our tendency is to want things that aren't humanly possible. At some point, we have to come to terms with the hard reality that we can only control so much. We can only know so much. We can only enjoy so much security and *sense of well being*.

No matter how much we study, no matter how intelligent and efficient we are, at some point, we have to trust God and the cosmic flow of life. At the end of the day, we're not robots or machines; we're not stones. We're human beings with tender hearts and anxious spirits.

Risk and mystery. Trust, of course, suggests risk. To live—really live—involves risk, all the time, every day. But that is a good thing.

For without risk, there's no mystery and wonder; there's no hilarity and laughter; there's no adventure and human search for meaning. And therein, there's no human advancement and progress.

How painfully dull!

There's nothing wrong with *wanting* and with *desire* and with human passion for all kinds of things. The key is to *live out* our desires and passions, to work our way through them, with daily acts of kindness and love. The love changes everything, ourselves included along the way.

Put another way, the way we get to a life that is fulfilled and meaningful is through a life centered in love. Because it is then that the true fruits of trust are revealed. And it is then that the most abundant blessings of the spirit are known and experienced.