

# 2 PATHS, YOU CHOOSE, 2 DESTINATIONS

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**OPEN:** We Americans seem to have an obsession with accumulating stuff.

- There are over 300,000 items in the average American home.
  - The average size of the American home has nearly tripled in size over the past 50 years.
  - One out of 10 Americans rent offsite storage – which has become one of the fastest growing segments of the commercial real estate industry over the last 40 years.
  - There are more than 50,000 storage facilities in the US, more than five times the number of Starbucks.
  - There is 7.3 square feet of self-storage space for every man, woman and child in our nation (meaning it would be possible for every American to stand, at the same time, under the canopy of self-storage...).
  - Our garages are full of stuff and we can't get our cars in them.
  - The average 10-year-old has 238 toys, but plays with just 12 daily.
  - The average American woman owns 30 outfits (one for every day of the month) compared to nine outfits in 1930.
  - Americans spend more on shoes, jewelry, and watches (\$100 billion) per year than on higher education
  - Americans spend \$1.2 trillion annually on non-essential goods...things we don't need.
- Bottom line...we like our stuff (our closets, garages and storage containers are full of them).

❖ I'd like to introduce you to two men who lived and died in our time.

## 1) STEVE JOBS

- Co-founder of Apple, inventor of the iPod, iPad, and iPhone, Macbook...
- At the age of 23 he was worth over 1 million, over \$10 million at 24 and over \$100 million when he was 25.
  - When he died at 56 (October of 2011) his net worth was \$10.2 billion.
- Born in San Francisco, CA to an unmarried couple who put him up for adoption...the newborn would be raised by Paul and Clara Jobs who would lavish great love and care on him.
  - ✓ His dad would teach him to do things with excellence.
  - ✓ He was a problem child in school...often bored with the curriculum, unwilling to fit in the ordinary classroom "mold"...
  - ✓ Had it not been for an observant teacher who expected she had an exceptional child in her classroom, he may have ended up a social delinquent. Under her guidance, he accelerated. "I just wanted to learn and please her," he said.
- Unfortunately, Steve Jobs had a bad experience at his church...when 13 years old he asked the Pastor a simple question:
  - ✓ He carried into Sunday school Life Magazine (July 1968) whose cover had a pair of starving children on it.
  - ✓ He asked the Pastor: "if I raise my finger will God know which one I raise before I do it?"
  - ✓ The pastor answers: "Yes, God knows everything."
  - ✓ Jobs then pulled out the Life cover and asked, "well, does God know about this and what is going to happen to these children?"

- ✓ The pastor replied: “Steve, I know you don’t understand but yes God knows about that.”
- ✓ The pastor underestimated the young teen’s intellect and left him unsatisfied. Jobs walked away from church that day and never returned.
- Steve Jobs turned to eastern religion – Zin Buddhism.
- ✓ He was a hard/harsh man and didn’t concern himself with people’s feelings.
- ✓ When on his death bed we can’t be sure what he did or did not believe...
  - He said: “I feel like there is more to our existence than meets the eye...I’d like to think something survives you after you die...but on the other hand, perhaps it’s like an off and on switch, click! and you’re gone.

**Text: Luke 12:13-21**

- If there is ever a time when greed raises its ugly head...it’s often when a loved one dies and the inheritance is divided.
- ✓ Jesus doesn’t “take the bait”, doesn’t get involved in two brothers’ dispute, but He does warn him of greed.
  - Life is not about how much “stuff” you got.
- In the parable, the rich man is called a fool – why?
- a) God was not a part of His life...perhaps he believed in God but he was living a God-less life.
  - No evidence he was growing his business by cheating or being dishonest...may have been a “morally good man.”
  - Big house, nice car, lots of stuff...no God = empty life.
- b) He failed to see that God is the giver of good gifts.
  - There is no recognition that God gave the rain and causes the crops to grow.

- Since he didn't recognize God as the divine giver it never dawned on him to use these blessings for divine purposes.
- He thought himself rich, when he was actually spiritually bankrupt.

c) He lived a self-centered life – it was all about him.

- The personal pronouns are prominent...6 "I's", 5 "My's", and 4 "I Wills."
- My fruit, my barns, my corn, my goods, my soul...
- He was taking care of number one.
- He was ambitious, but not for God...just for himself.

d) He died sooner than he planned.

- He thought: I have many goods laid up for many years.
- There are no more solemn words in scripture than these: **thou fool, this night your soul will be required of you.**
- Instead of bigger barns he got a burial...a box and then a meeting with God.

**Hebrews 9:27 (NLT) – And just as each person is destined to die once and after this comes judgment.**

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT) – For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.**

- One day we will leave this world for the next...we will leave all the possessions we have accumulated behind.

? What or whom are you living your life for?

➤ Be smart, live with eternity in view. Live for God, not material stuff.

## 2) HERE IS A LIFE WELL LIVED – BILLY GRAHAM.

- He is considered one of the most influential Christian leaders of our day.
  - ✓ Born in Charlotte, NC on November of 1918, raised on the family dairy farm. First of four children.
  - ✓ He came to know Christ at the age of 16 at a meeting where Mordecai Ham was preaching.
    - Dr. Graham would later tell the story: “I didn’t like being told that I was lost and going to hell.” He got out as soon as he could and said, “I am through.” But he was miserable all night and all the next day he admits, “I couldn’t get back soon enough!” He attended the meeting the next night.
    - Billy Graham’s hero at that time was Babe Ruth. So far as he was concerned, nobody ever attended revivals like this except a lot of old, effeminate men and crazy women and children. That meeting would change his hero from Babe Ruth to Jesus Christ.
- Billy Graham struggled to get out of high school, would later attend Bob Jones for a time but would leave and graduate from Florida Bible Institute.
  - ✓ During his lifetime, he would preach more than 100 million people in person and millions more by way of television, satellite and film. Nearly 3 million responded to his invitation to accept Jesus Christ into their life...
  - ✓ He proclaimed the Gospel to more people than any other preacher in history.
- He died in February of this year at the age of 99, he was the fourth private citizen in the U.S. history to lie in honor at the U.S. Capital in Washington, DC.

**CLOSE:** It’s true, we will not reach the fame of a Steve Jobs or a Billy Graham but we will choose what path we take (Will it be God-less or with God). Then one day this life will be over...what then?

**Mark 8:36-37 (NLT) – What do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?**

- It's not about how much stuff you have but do you have a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ?
- Now is the time to start!

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**Message Notes**  
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