

High Heels and Rubber Rafts

LCDR R. C. Richards

Command Chaplain

Recently, I heard a story about a friend of mine. When she was a little girl, her family was stationed overseas. One year for Christmas, all she wanted was a pair of plastic high-heeled shoes. All her brother wanted was a rubber raft. Her mother, desiring to fulfill her children's wishes, arranged for her father back in the United States to order the items and ship them to them in Africa. It was an ordeal that took several months to arrange.

Finally, on Christmas Day, both of the children opened their presents and were overjoyed to receive exactly what they wanted. Unfortunately, their joy was short-lived. The young girl, I'm sure meaning no harm, jumped on her brother's inflated rubber raft with her high heels on. Her brother's joy burst as quickly as his raft. In retaliation, he took her shoes and broke them. As my friend related to me, that Christmas does not rank high on the list of her mother list of favorite Christmas memories.

It is amazing that we can want things so badly that we build our whole world around them. We feel like we know exactly what house we want to build, what car we want to drive, or whom we want to marry. Sometimes, those things materialize for us, but sometimes they do not.

Sometimes, we obtain those things that we dearly want, only to learn that possessing it doesn't give us the sense of satisfaction or achievement we thought it would. Other times, we are thrilled to have exactly what we want, only to have someone steal it or break it or in some other way cause us to lose it.

Other times, we find that the joy it gives us is only temporary. I once heard a professional football player whose team had won the Superbowl say that the sense of accomplishment and the happiness from winning the Superbowl only lasted about four days. After that, he felt a great emotional letdown and emptiness.

When Jesus was talking to his disciples, he instructed them not to lay up treasures for themselves here on earth, but in Heaven. He told them that the things of this earth are only of a transient nature. They can be stone, broken, or simply just waisted away. However, the spiritual investments we have made in Heaven are eternal in nature. They can never be taken away, nor will they ever wear out or break.

Take stock of where you are making most of your investments and make sure they are going to be of a lasting nature. After all, you never know what your brother is liable to do to your new high heels.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.