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The result of greed

Dr. Melvin asked me to do two things when I first started my Institute. One is that I can't do ministry for the whole of Korea alone, so make a team and proceed together. Second, make a Monthly Newsletter. He said this was absolute to the progress and growth of the ministry. So these two pieces of advice were deeply embedded in my mind and kept this promise for more than 20 years. But the strange thing is that at first I made a Newsletter, but after a few months I felt that the Newsletter was leading our ministry. There seemed to be such a phenomenon as the ministry gained momentum. I think that writing a Column for a newspaper is a similar phenomenon.

Today, I am going to write about greed, thinking that maybe the Column could lead me. I watched a foreign movie and the title was [House of GUCCI]. The subtitle was "There are currently no Gucci family members in Gucci". The story is that the husband is named Gucci, but his wife orders a person to kill the husband. Gucci, her husband, was greedy, perhaps because he made money well. His house was too big, and there were many luxury cars, which made company executives upset and concerned. In the end, it seems true that greed breeds sin and leads to death.

One time it happened in the seminary because since the president passed his term three or four times and more than 10 years passed, people around began to say that he was doing it for too long. In the end it resulted in a bad of being kicked him out, sadly. I personally know him well, and I was grateful that he took care of me a lot. Of course, I think this case was not due to individual greed, but rather to the greed of the group we were following.

Like Gucci's case, personal greed is a problem. Also, the group's greed is often a problem. For example, in the case of a large church the pastor in charge has

been raising the church bigger so the church members, or elders who were close to him often encourage it to add 2-3 more years even to the age of 70. I think that's also a temptation, but the group's greed is at work. There was a lot of concern around. If he falls for that temptation and does it for two or three more years his honor and hard work he had accumulated so far will end up in vain and there will have been people who are clearly opposed to it. It ends up with a bad result. Even if it is the group's wish, it is necessary to make a decision that it is not.

The first example above is the case of falling for the temptation of group greed, and the latter boldly rejected it, so the current positions of the two are very different. The former is still hearing bad things from the seminary's juniors and denomination and the latter is still respected as a retired senior pastor in the church and is recognized by the church community.

What is greed? Aren't we asking for too much? Some say that they want the best husband, the best wife, the best daughter-in-law, etc. They are greedy. There was someone I know who expected too much about their future daughter-in-law. Of course, it is understandable that their son went to graduate school, studied in the United States and went to a good job in Gangnam, Seoul downtown. However, around the time his son got married, he introduced his girlfriend to his parents, but she was rejected, and eventually the son married the person his parents wanted. Eventually, they broke up due to one reason or another, and even he had a son, and former wife took the son from him and belongs to former wife due to the opposition of his parents. At this point, I saw him spend years alone, resenting to his parents. It seems to have been caused by the excessive greed of parents.

Greed may also work in our university. We may suddenly have a desire to grow and a desire to increase the number of students. If we are not ready to grow, and we want it to grow suddenly that would be absurd. This is related to financial issues so it is greed to try to over sponsor. The number of students is not suddenly increasing. The current situation and the local is also considered. There are two universities that are already decades old within two hours of our school. Therefore our university which is only two years old is like a baby, so the buildings and the number of students need time. Too sudden attempts are greedy and there is no need to overdo it. It is not something that can be done

by a person or group greed. I think it is best to be grateful for the present and to be loyal to what is given.

On the other hand, I think about the relationship between greed and vision. In other words, is it greed or vision? Greed is the starting point of our heart, but the vision is the starting point of our Lord, and I think it is to accomplish what the Lord wants. In other words it seems that there is no problem even if it is developed to infinity because it is given by the Lord. However if greed progresses to infinity, there must be an accident, and we see a lot that greed kills ourselves. In the process of achieving the vision of the Lord, we can accept the daily bread and the necessary positions with thanks and humility. However becoming rich through that vision or pursuing too much honor will eventually lead us to self-destruction.