



“How do they get anything done?”

This question needs a bit of background, so here it is:

One of the impressions I came away with from our trip to Ireland was that, in general, people there have a greater contentment than here in the United States. The Sunday after we returned from our trip, I mentioned in the sermon (go to livingwordlutheran.net and click on the 05-19-19 sermon to listen to it) that it appeared to me in Ireland, “Spending time is more important than spending money,” and that “People are more important than possessions.” Here in America I see a constant “striving” - for ‘more,’ ‘bigger,’ ‘faster,’ ‘newer,’ and ‘more comfortable’ - that gets in the way of us being as content.

While talking about these observations with someone I met recently, I commented that this “contentment” I witnessed in Ireland was evident in the people being much more ‘laid back’ when it comes to the concept of “time.” For example, it seems that when I’m driving in the U.S., going the speed limit will inevitably result in cars/trucks tailgating until they can zoom past me - complete with a dirty look or a honk or worse! Whereas in Ireland (due to the dangerously narrow and curvy roads) I often drove well below the speed limit and never encountered the impatient reactions I do here. I sensed a laid-back “We’ll get there, when we get there,” attitude instead of an impatient, “You idiot! I could have been there 5 minutes ago if it wasn’t for the likes of you!”

The question above came in response to my comments about this laid-back, contented attitude I sensed in Ireland.

I had to ponder that question a bit before this answer came to me:

“I guess, when you aren’t constantly striving for ‘more,’ ‘bigger,’ ‘faster,’ ‘newer’ and ‘more comfortable,’ you probably don’t have as much that you need to get done.”

The contented attitude I experienced while on vacation is one I want to adopt in my own life. I hope you will join me in that goal as we both take to heart God’s Words to us in Hebrews 13:5 “Be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

When we have Jesus - the God who knows ALL our needs and has the power to provide them - we can truly rest in the assurance of His constant presence with us!

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net