

## Wednesday - March 17

*Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it;*

*1 Timothy 6:6-7 (NRSV)*

'Simple Gifts'. I know you know the incomparable Shaker tune. I know you are singing it to yourself right now :)

Many years ago, in our high school band, we played the melody repeatedly in an adapted version of the song for our level of ability. Our band director shared a history of the song with us, and I have gone back to the obvious message many times: simplicity over complexity. My mother's voice reframes it for me saying, "Don't take yourself so seriously, Todd!"

We are planning another wedding in my family right now, and it is so ... well, I am supposed to say stressful, right?! But it isn't, and we won't let it be! We are actively not sweating the little things and all of the details that could overwhelm us. We have all lived through tough times in our lives, and we know faith and hope are not just words! Each of us has gifts to offer, simple gifts that bring contentment and a genuine feeling of a renewed heart and a restored soul.

And upon further inspection, our music teacher explained another fact, "'Simple Gifts' is a dancing song intended for lessons in dancing and lessons in how we live our lives." So, friends, shall we dance?

Todd

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for the gift to be simple! We lift you up each day and know an attitude of gratitude will be our goal. Bless each one of us in our dance today. Amen.