

Georgia's Mark Richt Sets the Example

A few years ago Mark Richt the football coach at the University of Georgia drew headlines. What was interesting was the headlines had nothing to do with football. It all had to do with the fact that the Richt's decided to sell their lake house. Media hype speculated that Richt was in trouble over last year's losing season and that his family was preparing for an exodus. It turns out nothing could be further from the truth.

Richt is one of football's most successful coaches despite last year's average season. What really defines Richt however is that he and his family are committed Christians. They have regularly gone on mission trips and supported Christian causes.

So why sell the second house on the lake? The Richt's are downsizing their lives. Here is what Richt said, "Within the last year, I read this book, "The Hole in Our Gospel," written by **Richard Stearns**. He's the president of World Vision, U.S. I think people understand who World Vision is but, basically, they help the poor. Through their organization, you can help children, you can help build wells, you can buy them donkeys, whatever people need. World Vision helps people across the world. Well, anyway, there was a lot of statistical data in there about the amount of people that live on a dollar a day around this world, billions of people. So I'm reading this book and it really affected me. It helped me realize that what we have is way more than we need and that our ability to give is hindered by this property. I guess that's the best way to tell you. We just wanted to be in a better position to give and bless people that don't have anything. We felt like this was one way to be able to do that."

You and I might not have a second house or a house on the lake. God might not be calling you to sell it even if you did. That is not the point. The point is that all of us need to ask ourselves whether the "things" we possess actually possess us. Do your toys and stuff keep you so strapped that you are hindered to give to God's work? Maybe you too need to down size in areas of your life in order to give back to those in need.

While you may not be a Georgia Bulldog fan at least we can rejoice over the example of a coach that gets what really matters in life. As our ushers come forward for today's offering let's not let anything hinder us from giving to God's work.