

Tidying up is a must!

The desk in the office - there are piles of papers. And the mail that urgently needs to be done for 10 days. And the cellar! What's lying around, standing around, gathering dust. The attic! The garage! The garden!

The bigger the mess, the bigger the bow I make around it.

I feel how such a mess messes myself up and blocks me more from day to day. So: Tidying up is a must!

A thought for the beginning of the year? Yes, of course a thought for the beginning of the year!

At times my life seems to me like a house with untidy rooms. The jumble of my wishes, my intentions and plans.

What I intend to do and what I don't manage to do. What I long for and do not allow myself.

I should - but can I?

I would like to - but may I?

I could - but should I really?

Who will help me tidy up? Who helps to create order?

Clear words would have to be exchanged. Letters written, e-mails sent. Silence would have to be shared. But: what shall I share with whom? And who at what time? The many people, the many contacts and relationships.

Who helps me to create order?

With all that let's look again at the passage of this woman, who tidies up, who sweeps the top to the bottom in her whole house, and by doing so finds, what she was searching for –

⁸Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.' (Luke 15: 8-10)

Three times cleaning up, three times finding, three times rejoicing. First, of course, rejoicing over the coin the woman finds again. A silver penny sounds little. But it was a lot. The 10 pennies that the woman possessed was what she had saved during her lifetime in order to be able to live on it when she is old.

Three times cleaning up, three times finding, three times joy.

Secondly, finding myself.

When I take time to tidy up, not only do my shelves get in order, my thoughts get in order as well.

Tidying up is memory work. In the basement, a bicycle bell falls into my hands.

It comes from our family's first child's bike and I think, my goodness, what have you experienced and forgotten again...?

While cleaning up, I put together pieces of biography. Whoever cleans up, sweeps the lowest to the top, finds himself. Tidying up puts myself in order. It also brings to light finds, that remind me of difficult times - but perhaps also bring thoughts of where God's help was experienced. "Do not forget all his benefits!"

Three times cleaning up, three times finding, three times joy.

Finally: people who have fallen out of order.

With swindlers, criminals, and harlots, Jesus sits down at a table. The pious turn up their noses. Then Jesus tells the parable of the silver coin that was found again, in order to pass on something of the joy, the rejoicing that breaks out in heaven when a person is restored to order.

That is, when a person returns to the order that God has given to life on earth right from the beginning. "You have wisely ordered all things ... "

From being a workaholic to becoming a person who comes to rest, from a complainer to one who gives praise and recognition to others, From being a small-minded person to becoming a generous one who relies on God's generosity.

The world becomes tidier when a person who had lost himself finds his way back to himself, to his purpose.
Tidying up is necessary!

Thoughts for the beginning of the year? Yes, of course thoughts for the beginning of the year!

Looking back and cleaning up. Remove what hinders, paralyzes, drills and stands in the way. Finding a yes to what can't be changed anyway, what has been as it had been. Let it be.
Tidying up and making room for something new, not using our energies in vain by looking backward, but gathering them for the path ahead.

Dismantling an old bridge that lies behind me, which I no longer need and which is also no longer strong enough - and using the material for a new bridge.

Finally: What is the goal?

Paul once wrote: God is not a God of disorder, but.... (1 Cor 14:35)
No - not of order, it would have continued like that if Paul had been a German. Not a God of disorder, but a God of peace. The opposite of disorder is not pedantic order, but: Peace!

Tidying up not for the sake of tidying up. Drawing a balance not for the sake of drawing a balance.

Looking back not for the sake of looking back.

But doing so to find peace. That we can make peace with our past.

Giving back to God what has been - with thanks, with sorrow, with a song of praise, with a psalm of lament - why not!

But giving back to God, and then with free hands and a free heart, with peace, inwardly reordered, we will head towards the new that awaits us. Accepting the paths to come with calm and in peace, because we know: "It is you, God, who is coming towards me. You, God, you are and you will remain with me."