

**MOTORCYCLE SHOW AT THE ROSEMONT**

A few weeks ago, my wife and I went to Chicago with a bunch of friends to attend the motorcycle show. There were thousands of people in attendance, which made for a crowded and NOISY convention hall. I suppose that you could find information on anything that related to motorcycling at this convention, and most of the stuff was for sale. I saw one guy walking around the show with a set of new handle bars wrapped around his neck. Others were carrying shoes, vests, coats and an infinite assortment of jewelry and accessories, as they wound their way from entrance to exit.

As we walked through the venue, I realized that there were mostly two kinds of people at the show. The first were those who are motorcycle enthusiasts, there to see the latest and greatest in motorcycle stuff. The second type were those who came to make money off the first type of person at the show. There is no doubt that there was a considerable flow of money going only in one direction, as the enthusiasts hungrily consumed the merchant's wares. People are more than willing to pay a great deal for the happiness that these toys bring. I also realized that people are searching for something to make their lives better. That's what makes a show like this work - showing the searchers where to look for what they want.

As we went from booth to booth, display to display, I saw stuff to make my heart race. The new bikes were hard to stay off of. The chrome accessories have already been bolted on my bike - in my mind. My wife's jewelry box has been accentuated with new pewter doodads that she's been looking for "all her life!" I would have had a new leather duster, but they didn't have a 4XLT. I never knew there was so much stuff I couldn't live without! I found out I could wash my bike without water, and I think they said it would never get dirty again. Then there are the plugs that will increase horsepower by 40% and last a zillion miles. All in all, there were a lot of things I saw that I want!

The crowds milling around the bike shows are composed of people who are wanting more than what they have. That's why they endure the mob and the sales pitches of the vendors. They are hoping to discover the "thing" that will bring everything together. A new Harley - or an "old" one! A bigger motor, or a new exhaust. A custom paint job. Something is going to be the "Finally" which brings satisfaction to their project. This reminds me that everyday life is filled with things we want, and things we want to avoid. Most of us are hoping for better things, more money, less bills, smoother relationships. When things fail to work out the way we hoped, we pick up the pieces and start again. Still looking; still searching.

Some have given up hope that there is any real satisfaction to be found, except to have all the fun you can, and then you die. Going to shows such as this affirms my conviction that many people are still searching for something to bring fulfillment to their lives. They are still willing to pay enormous sums of money, and endure much discomfort to find what they think will make them happy. And they keep looking. Bravo for the brave ones, you who keep to the quest. There is more to life than we have experienced. Maybe our fleeting satisfaction results from looking in the wrong direction. All these "things" are nice, and desirable, and may have a place in our lives. But, if we don't have the foundation of inner peace to build upon, none of these other things will matter. At the bike show, we were able to talk to some people who are searching for the right thing. We already know that "religion" doesn't really satisfy, but knowing Jesus Christ does! He comes to you and me, to give meaning to our lives. Look to the One who was lifted up on the cross for us. He wants to give us satisfaction that no amount of money can buy. We can't do enough good to earn it. Someday the show will close, and others will still be searching for that which doesn't bring satisfaction. Look again, in the right direction, and we will find the "Finally!" we've been seeking.

Sam Downey

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