

## Empty Shelves

by Darrell B. Harrison

Ever been to the mall or the grocery store or tried to purchase tickets to a sporting event or concert only to find that the item which you so desperately craved, or the event you'd waited so patiently to attend, was completely sold out?

Think back for a moment to the last time that happened to you. Perhaps your experience was something like this...

You awake early one Saturday morning and drive to your favorite sporting goods store because you've finally completed the requisite number of honey-do tasks to earn enough "spousal credits" (i.e. "permission") to purchase that hot new 'Big Mabel Super-Titanium X4' driver that's finally come out. You've dreamed about this moment for months; so much so that you hardly slept the night before. And, just like a kid on Christmas Eve, you arrive before the doors even open, fully convinced that you've gotten the jump on everyone else.

However, upon pulling into the parking lot, to your great disappointment, you find about 35 other guys already lined up along the front entrance, breakfast biscuits and coffee in-hand, having apparently earned enough spousal credits themselves. Realizing that this driver would be of particularly high demand – and to avert a stampede – the store manager issues numbers to everyone waiting in line.

Finally, the doors open and you walk hurriedly back to the sporting goods department, and before your number is called your worst fear is realized when you hear the announcement over the store's PA system, "Your attention, please. We regret to inform you, our loyal customers, that we have completely sold out of our allotment of Big Mabel drivers. We apologize for any inconvenience."

*"Completely sold out."*

Bummer, huh? Perhaps – especially if you're a golfer – which I am not, by the way. Nevertheless, I believe this example holds for us a spiritual application to consider as each of us looks at our own individual walk with Christ. It's interesting to note, contrary to the negative impressions we often have when we think of the term "sold out", that God's perspective of this concept couldn't be more disparate.

In **2 Chronicles 9:16a** we read, "**For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.**"

Just meditate on that for a moment. You see, my brother, just like the sporting goods store that's left with nothing but empty shelves after completely selling out of your favorite golf clubs, God is seeking men whose hearts are completely sold out to Him; men who have "emptied" themselves, if you will, of the attractions and distractions of this world, whose all-consuming passion and desire in life is to know God and accomplish His will.

As the old hymn says: *"Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."*