

Luke 12:31: *But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.*

<sup>34</sup> *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

#### For Our personal inventory:

Where is our treasure? Where is our heart? Are we rich toward God?

Some perspectives to ponder this week: (notes from a sermon by S. Cole)

- (1) Do my thoughts more often run after material things than after God Himself? If I am often thinking about that new car or that nicer house or that better computer, and I seldom think about how I can know God better, I am tainted by greed.
- (2) Do I ever compromise godly character in the pursuit of material gain? If I sometimes cheat or lie or steal to get ahead financially or to avoid loss, I am being greedy. If I am willing to shred relationships or to take advantage of another person for financial gain, I am being greedy. If I care more about making money than about being a witness for Jesus Christ, I am being greedy.

(3) Do I enjoy material things more than I enjoy knowing God? If my happiness soars when I get a new car, but I am bored by the things of God, I am greedy. If I rejoice when I win a raffle or door prize, but I yawn when I hear about a soul being saved, I am greedy.

(4) How do I respond when I lose material things? When the stock market drops, do I fall apart emotionally? If I get robbed or lose some or all of my things in a fire, does it devastate me? I'm not saying that we must be stoical about such losses. We will always feel some sadness when we lose things. But if it wipes us out, then we're probably too attached to this world and its goods.

(5) What would I do if I suddenly came into a fortune?

**Series:** Biblical Gen. Ed.

**Title:** Rich Toward God

**Topic:** Earthly or heavenly minded?

**Luke 12:1-12**

Luke 12: <sup>13</sup> *Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"<sup>15</sup> Then he said to **them**, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed (all covetousness); life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."*

<sup>16</sup> *And he told **them** this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'*

<sup>18</sup> *"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup> And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"*

<sup>20</sup> *"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'*

<sup>21</sup> *"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ man in the parable:

In the parable, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ criticize the man for:

[1] Being Rich

[2] For Saving

[3] For Planning

The rich man in the parable who talks to himself is greedy:

- The greed is found in the reason why he wanted to build the barns. He intends to hoard all his wealth for himself. He is banking his whole future on his possessions.



- It may be that Jesus is tying this back to verse 2 with the false teaching of the Pharisees. The Pharisees taught a prosperity teaching, that material prosperity is a sign of divine blessing. (Luke 16:14 says the Pharisees were *lovers of money*.)
- The man thinks that a full barn guarantees a full and satisfying life. Therefore, the man had no need to trust in God because he had an abundant supply for all that he would ever need. In his thinking, one of the highest goals in life is to satisfy himself, and he thought he could do it with all he had accumulated.

What influences our thinking on issues of life?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Two quotes on wealth:**

Psalm 39:6

*Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro:*

*He bustles about, but only in vain;*

*He heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it.*

“What you have in this life is only in this life. If it is material, it belongs only to this life, therefore, folks, it has no real value. It has no enduring value. And of all the generations that have lived, certainly we’re in a better position to understand the issue of attitude than maybe anybody else in history, or certainly most people because when we have so much more than we need, that reveals our attitude toward it. You see, wealth creates all kinds of choices and that’s what the parable indicates. A man had more than he needed. Okay...what am I going to do? And the world in which we live where we have so much more than we need is filled with so many choices, we could spend all of our time just making the choices. We can get so sucked up in trying to decide what to buy, where to go to get it, how to make the trip and where to set it when we get it and then where to put the old when we replace it...life can just be consumed with these choices.” JMac

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ man in front of Jesus:**

Luke 12: <sup>15</sup>“*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed (all covetousness); life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.*”  
*Abundance -- more than enough.*

Amplified: <sup>15</sup> *Guard yourselves and keep free from all covetousness (the immoderate desire for wealth, the greedy longing to have more); for a man’s life does not consist in and is not derived from possessing overflowing abundance or that which is over and above his needs.*

**Do we believe this?:**

An abundance of material possessions will never contribute anything toward life’s real meaning.

<sup>21</sup> *“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”*

**What can we take with us when we die? What can we take to heaven?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ of the people whose lives we touched with the gospel.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ legacy.

1 Tim 6: <sup>17</sup> *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.* <sup>18</sup> *Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.* <sup>19</sup> *In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

Luke 12:22: *Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.* <sup>23</sup> *For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.*