

**Series: the god of Money  
“The Folly of Riches”  
Luke 12:13 – 21**

**Big Idea – Happiness never comes from more stuff.**

Intro: Thousands had gathered to hear and see Jesus teach. There were so many people that they were trampling over one another. Do you know why? He was a strong speaker who knew what He believed and where He stood.

Mark 1:22 They were amazed at his teaching, for he taught as one who had real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law.

**1. Jesus’ strong teaching on:**

**Hypocrisy** – He rebuked the Pharisees, and then warned them not to be guilty of double talk either, for God would reveal all things.

**Hell** – He told them to fear God who had power to cast them into Hell. Word “hell” is 24 times in N.T.; 22 times Jesus used it as an actual real, burning place.

**Denying Christ** – danger of denying the Lord

**Blaspheming the Holy Spirit** – not receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the unforgivable sin.

A man in audience spoke to Jesus and said, “Tell my brother to **give me.**” Showed his Greed.

**2 Jesus warning about covetousness.**

Luke 12:15 “Jesus said to them, “Be careful and guard against all kinds of greed. Life is not measured by how much one owns.”

Heb 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Psa. 119:36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things and revive me in Your way.

What Jesus says is exactly the opposite to what the world says. The world says: Life does consist in the abundance of one’s possessions, so you should get all you can and own all that’s possible.

This notion is based on a distorted, unbiblical view of life. In actuality, we don’t really own anything. We are stewards — managers — of all that God entrusts to our care. So greed makes no sense whatsoever.

Our affections, what we feel most profoundly, are to be set above, not on the things of this world.

Col. 3:2 Set your affection on the things that are above, not just the things that are on the earth...

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, (the world system) nor the things that are in this world...

How can you tell if you love the world? If you lost it all, what would your response be? Job's?

### **3. Jesus story about the rich fool.**

#### **1. Beware of Success – vs. 16, 17**

Or should I say, what the world calls success?

#### **The Success Syndrome**

Omni magazine had an article about the success syndrome. Its victims suffer from the three A's: aloneness, adventure-seeking, and adultery. The article noted that the successful person snaps his Midas fingers and people jump. Yet, when a person seems to have it all, the castle comes crashing down and everything he or she touches turns to garbage.

#### **Fame and Success**

“Don't confuse fame with success. Madonna is one, and Helen Keller is the other.” Erma Bombeck.

#### **He forgot he was only a steward – “...my crops”**

What is the definition of a Steward?

This definition is key: Definition: “Someone who is responsible for another man's property.”

We are in such a key position as stewards.

John Wesley once said... "When the Possessor of heaven and earth brought you into being and placed you in this world, He placed you here not as an owner but as a steward--as such He entrusted you for a season with goods of various kinds--but the sole property of these still rests in Him, nor can ever be alienated from Him. As you are not your own but His, such is likewise all you enjoy. "

#### **He failed to see what the harvest proved**

Not that he was a better man, but that God had been kind and gracious to him.

#### **He did not “get it” - that wealth does not equal worth**

Luke 12:15 Then he said, “Beware! Don't be greedy for what you don't have. Real life is not measured by how much we own.”

Money will buy a bed but not sleep; books but not brains; food but not appetite; finery but not beauty; a house but not a home; medicine but not health; luxuries but not culture; amusements but not happiness; religion but not salvation--a passport to everywhere but heaven.

**Empty Success** - Tom Landry just after they had won the Super Bowl the Dallas Cowboys, year after year after year, had been coming so close, and finally that victory had come), "The overwhelming emotion--in a few days ,among the players on the Dallas Cowboys football team--was how empty that goal was. There must be something more."

## **2. Beware of Self – assurance – vs. 18, 19**

Luke 12:18 So he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store everything.

**He thought only of himself, not God**

The man in the parable had "I" trouble. (Personal pronouns are used here 13 times).

**He was proud, rather than humble**

**He saw himself as an owner, not a steward**

**(ENDED MESSAGE HERE ON 2/25/24 - FINISH MARCH 3 & COMMUNION)**

## **3. Beware of Self – security – vs. 18, 19**

**More "stuff" can create worry, not peace**

**Jesus followed this story with a sermon on worry**

Luke 12:22 "Then turning to his disciples, Jesus said, "So I tell you, don't worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or clothes to wear. For life consists of far more than food and clothing.

**He taught there is no security in things**

Matthew 6:19 Don't store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves.

## **4. Beware of Self – satisfaction – vs. 19**

Luke 12: 19 And I'll sit back and say to myself, My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!

**Self-focused ownership instead of God focused stewardship is the wrong focus.**

**Peace based on things not God's will, is a false peace.**

**God's will is that we invest in eternal things.**

As stewards, we're answerable to the Owner not for our enjoyment of His riches, but our investment. We must invest in things eternal.

God called this man a "fool" and said he was going to die and lose his souls and his "things"

Conclusion: **Jesus' teaching is that our # 1 priority as stewards is to be "rich toward God."**