

**Introduction:**

- Happy Saint Patrick's Days.
  - Paddy and Seamus were walking home from the pub. Paddy says to Seamus, 'What a beautiful night, look at the moon.' Seamus stops and looks at Paddy, 'You are wrong, that's not the moon, that's the sun.' Both started arguing for a while when they come upon a real drunk walking in the other direction, so they stopped him. 'Sir, could you please help settle our argument? Tell us what that thing is up in the sky that's shining. Is it the moon or the sun?' The drunk looked at the sky and then looked at them, and said, 'Sorry, I don't live around here.'
  - Dermot McCann opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly 'phoned his best friend Reilly. 'Did ye see the paper?' asked Dermot. 'They say I died.' 'Yes, I saw it.' replied Reilly. 'Where are ye callin' from?'
  - What happens if you cross poison ivy with a four-leaf clover? You get a rash of good luck!
  - Where can you always find gold on St. Patty's Day? In the dictionary.
- Theme: *"I want my kingdom in the heart of my people."* In order for this to happen we must see the Kingdom as a treasure.
  - When I spoke from Matthew 6:33 earlier this year. I talked about four worries and five questions and a promise that Jesus brought to mind as he was trying to get us over our fear. Let's see if we can get the Kingdom of God a little deeper in us today.

**I. Life Is Not Measured By How Much We Own**

- A. *"Then he said, 'Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.'"* (Luke 12:15, NLT) Life is not measured by how much you own.
1. Yet we all work to have more than we have now. We measure ourselves to see how much we own.
  2. An observation: Everyone has a certain income we fit into. But yet Americans owe more than 1 trillion in credit card debt. It is not just the 'poor' who are in debt. People who make good money are in debt. Why? Because they are measuring their lives by what they own (they don't even own it).
  3. It is easy to get caught in the trap of measuring your life by what you own.
    - a) When I was a kid if you had a bike with a banana seat and tall sissy bar you were cool. We measured ourselves by what we owned.
    - b) When we became teenagers...we just wanted a set of wheels. Some kids, their parents bought them nice cars. We measured ourselves by what we owned.

- c) Then came college....I graduated Florida State, I graduated Florida, I didn't graduate. We measured ourselves by what we owned. Then Jesus makes this 'rude' statement: "*Life is not measured by how much you own.*" And so on...
- B. Zoe is not measured by things.
1. Zoe - "Gr. Live, vitality. The true life of God is indestructible. Being indestructible it is eternal." John 10:10 *I have come that you might have zoe.* Jesus is the Way the Truth the Zoe. (Jn 14:6)
  2. Jesus tells the story of a wealthy farmer. Is it a problem to be a wealthy farmer? NO! It is a problem to build bigger barns for the crops? NO! The farmer's problem in our story is that he sees no one or anything else outside of his self. 10 times in three verses he refers to himself.
- C. The issue of the farmer.
1. It is all about self. Me, my.
  2. He has an independent mindset. Not once does he mention God. In his mind, what he has done he has done without God. "I have enough!"
  3. The independent mindset is his problem. And his problem with wealth, which all who are rich must deal, with is that it fosters independence. And it earns him the title which was given by God as... "*You fool! Do you think you can take it with you?*"
    - a) fool - Gr. phones - to understand, to think. add preposition 'a' aphron - and the meaning changes to without understanding, thinking, fool.
  4. So the question is still unanswered...

## II. How Do You Measure Zoe?

- A. "*Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not **have a rich relationship with God.***" (Luke 12:21, NLT) How do you measure Zoe? Have a rich relationship with God. Gods word to us: "*I want my Kingdom in the heart of my people.*"
1. Note to self: It does not say, "Have a relationship with God."
  2. It says have a rich relationship with God!
    - a) Ploutos - Gr. rich, well to do, to become rich or make rich.
    - b) towards God. The farmer was rich towards self but not towards God.
    - c) The two words together is saying to us if you want to measure Zoe do it not by things that will perish but in richness towards God.
    - d) Tie this thought with: "*Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*" (Luke 12:34, NLT) The Message, same verse: "*It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.*"
- B. "*My purpose is to give them a **rich and satisfying life.***" (John 10:10, NLT)

1. *“So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.”* (Luke 12:32, NLT)
2. The Father is so very happy to give us the Kingdom. IE. Luke 15 Prodigal son.
- C. Luke 12:31 *Seek the Kingdom of God.* In the imperative. It is a command.
  1. When we do that first, it signals value! What you value you give yourself to.
  2. That is why Jesus could say, (Message Bible): *“It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.”*
  3. If Zoe life - has to do with indestructible life, then we can measure our life by how much of eternity we are carrying.
  4. The Kingdom has a King. He is Jesus. He owns us, He owns everything...AND HE IS GOOD!!!
  5. The Kingdom has a constitution. It is called the Word of God.
    - a) How familiar are we with what is in it?
    - b) How trusting are we of the Kings decrees?

### III. Jesus Asks Five Questions

- A. Jesus asks five questions in our Matthew passage. MT 6
  1. When Jesus asks us a question He wants us to discover something.
  2. When Jesus asks us a question, you can count on the answer to be one of importance in your life.
  3. The questions He asks starts us mining down for the answers. There is a progression:
- B. Five Questions:
  1. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing?
    - a) Yes, there is a higher purpose.
    - b) And Jesus introduces God into the conversation. Look at the birds, they do not have refrigerators yet **YOUR** heavenly Father feeds them.
    - c) Jesus is saying to us: connect the dots! Your life is more than food or clothing it is about your relationship to Father! Your life has purpose because you are connected to your heavenly Father.
  2. Question #2: And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?
    - a) Yes, I am more valuable than birds and flowers.
    - b) It only makes sense that if God cares for birds and feeds them that He would care for me and feed me.
    - c) In fact, Jesus says, *“And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?”*
    - d) He is telling His hearers, by being connected to God and His Kingdom you have value.
    - e) There is a purpose and a place for you in the Kingdom because you are valuable to Papa!

3. Question #3: Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Let me translate this another way: "Can all your control add a single moment to your life?
    - a) The question is a 'you' verses God question! So the answer is....
    - b) No, they can not! If they can't add to your life, then leads us to...Question #4
  4. Question #4: And why worry about your clothing? vs 30
    - a) If God cares for wild flowers He will certainly care for you!
    - b) Solomon in all his glory was not as beautiful as they are.
    - c) Certainly - πολλο μᾶλλον - much more! It is an absolutely inclusive statement. God will certainly care for you; or how much more God will care for you!
    - d) So if the higher purpose is to relate to God, and in relating to Him we receive value, and worry cant add a moment to my life, but God certainly can as He cares for me...Question #5...
  5. Why do you have so little faith? Luke 12:28
    - a) Why do you have so much trust in yourself? Independence vs. faith in God.
    - b) Verse 32 it matters what dominates your thoughts.
    - c) To trust in self with worry is to not be in faith.
    - d) Trust God!
- C. Jesus asks all those questions to show us the futility of our own strength in lite of the goodness and beauty of God! He is actually leading us to the place He is now going to command us to go. He is giving us the priority of the Kingdom!

### Conclusion:

- *"Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."* (Luke 12:21, NLT)
- *"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."* (Luke 12:34, NLT)

*"Do you understand all these things?" "Yes," they said, "we do." Then he added, "Every teacher of religious law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a homeowner who brings from his storeroom new gems of truth as well as old."* (Matthew 13:51-52, NLT)

*"Jesus asked, "Are you starting to get a handle on all this?" They answered, "Yes." He said, "Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it."* (Matthew 13:51-52, The Message)