

Introduction:

- Luke 12:13-21
 - *"So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."* (Luke 12:21, ESV)
- When it comes to money the Bible is clear about two things.
 - One, when you operate according to Biblical principles you will prosper.
 - Two, when you prosper you have a greater tendency to forget God and quit growing in Him.
 - IE. Abraham prospered, Isaac prospered. (Genesis 26:12-13), David, Solomon.
- Let me say up front as we go through this teaching tonight. God is not opposed to us becoming wealthy.
 - Money is not bad at all! It is the love of money that causes us issues. *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."* (1 Timothy 6:10, ESV)
 - What we do with our money shows what we actually value in life.
 - Later, in verse 34 Jesus declares where our treasure is there our heart will be also. Where your money goes is where your treasure is located. This expresses the movement of your heart.

I. Beware Of Covetousness

- A. A man approaches Jesus demanding that He tell his brother to divide the inheritance with him. Jesus refuses to get caught up in daily lives but answers his demand with a warning and a parable. As he looks he sees a man losing his grip on what appears to be his. At the same time, Jesus sees a man that is being deceived by riches. Matthew 13:22 deceitfulness of riches is choking out the word.
 1. The warning is to 'take care' and 'be on guard'
 - a) Take care – comes from a word meaning 'to see' or 'to perceive' to take note and judge carefully. In other words, listen closely to what I am saying. TDNT Kittle.
 - b) Be on guard – to protect to watch to guard. TDNT Kittle.
 2. Against covetousness – having more, wanting more, grasping for more, especially for the purpose of security and self indulgence.
- B. Having more does not add to our lives. But in our story the inheritance is talking!
 1. It is whispering into the ear of the man that, "if you lose me you will be losing your life."
 2. It is whispering into the ear of the man, "I mean so much to you do not let me go."
 3. Money does not give us life. The life that satisfies comes from God.
- C. Jesus goes right to the point for us. Life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. Luke 12:15 TPT *"Your life can never be measured by the amount of things you possess."*

1. *"And he said to them, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.'" (Luke 12:15, ESV)*
2. This prompts the question: "If life does not consist of possessions, what does it consist of?" This leads to the parable Luke 12:16-20. Don't be a fool.

II. Be Not A Fool

- A. It was J. Paul Getty who was asked, *"How much money is enough?"* He replied, *"Just a little bit more."* That is covetousness!
 1. It is not a bad thing to have your crops prosper, your business to prosper,
 2. God is happy in that! It is a bad thing when we trust in them. He is not a fool because he is prospering. Why then?
- B. Note the number of first person pronouns in Luke 12: He is giving himself all the credit. He is selfish.
 1. What shall I do?
 2. I have no where to store my crops.
 3. I will do this...I will tear down...I will build...I will store... all my grains...and my goods.
 4. I will say to my soul: relax, eat, drink, be merry. He is self absorbed.
- C. But God calls that man a fool!
 1. The question is, why is he called a fool?
 - a) Because what he is doing is causing him to lose his own soul.
 - b) He is coveting: *"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5, ESV)*
 - c) He is leaning on his own strength. This is one of the greatest temptations of wealth...money will get you what you need...
 2. He believes his wealth will care for him. *"But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'" (Luke 12:20, ESV)*
 3. He loves money. *"He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity." (Ecclesiastes 5:10, ESV)*
 4. He is a fool because he is about to die by the choices he is making. *"But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction." (1 Timothy 6:9, ESV)* Therefore, guard against this! What you think you need and will give you life is actually about to take you life.

III. Be Rich Towards God

- A. Life is not having things it is having God. It is having a relationship with God.
 - 1. Eternal life (Zoe) vs. temporal riches. *"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."* (John 17:3, ESV)
 - 2. *"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."* (1 Timothy 6:18-19, ESV)
- B. Life is being rich toward God. Flip this verse: *"So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."* (Luke 12:21, ESV)
 - 1. Being rich toward God means we are created for God and not for things.
 - 2. Being rich toward God is knowing God abundantly and valuing Him more than things.
 - 3. Being rich toward God is the heart being drawn toward God as our true riches.
 - a) Rich toward God means moving toward Him because we value Him.
 - b) Rich toward God means counting God greater than anything this world has to offer.
 - c) Rich toward God means using our earthly riches to show how much we value God. This is what the farmer in our parable failed to do value God with the riches given him by helping others.
- C. Being Rich towards God means seeking His Kingdom and not worrying about our lives; what we will eat, wear, drink.

Conclusion:

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32, ESV)