

Luke 12 pt. 2 vs. 13-34

¹³ Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴ But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' ¹⁸ So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.'" ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

²¹ "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

²² Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. ²³ Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? ²⁵ And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁶ If you then are not able to do *the* least, why are you anxious for the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe* you, O you of little faith?

²⁹ "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. ³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

³²“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1. In Ch. 12, Jesus begins teaching against hypocrisy
 - a. Everything hidden will be revealed

I. Greed

II. Contentment

I. Greed

1. Someone is in the audience who’s not thinking about the sermon but on how to solve his personal problems
 - a. “Tell my brother to divide the inheritance”
 - i. Eldest brothers took 2/3
 - ii. Other brother took 1/3
 1. Apparently, a dispute occurred between them
 - b. It was common for Rabbi’s at this time to help settle disputes
 - c. Jesus makes it very clear, this is not why He’s here
 - d. **Who made Me a judge or arbitrator over you?**

- e. Jesus knows no answer will solve the real problem; **Greed**
- f. Greed: a selfish and excessive desire for more of something (as money) than is needed (Webster's)
- g. He knows that at the heart of this problem is the disease of "possessionitis"
- h. He uses this opportunity to teach on greed
- i. To be clear, there's nothing wrong with having plenty
 - i. God blesses us with things to enjoy freely (1 Tim 6:17)
 - 1. Abraham was wealthy
 - 2. Job was wealthy
 - 3. Solomon was wealthy
 - 4. Joseph of Arimathea was wealthy
 - ii. The problem is how you deal with abundance
- j. Scripture warns us about greed and the desire for more
- k. **Exodus 20** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."
- l. "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist of the abundance of his possessions"

- m. Your value or satisfaction is not the result of how much you have
 - i. It's not what you have, it's who you are
 - ii. Your value is determined by God
 - n. Money will never satisfy you, it will never be enough
 - o. Acquiring more possessions is like drinking salt water – it always leaves you thirsty
2. **Eccl. 5:10** Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income...
 3. **Heb 13:5** Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
 4. Jesus gives a parable about a man who's land produced much fruit
 5. Being a farmer, this man should have acknowledged that it was God's hand that brought him this great wealth
 - a. God controls the elements that brought this great crop
 6. The farmer has no intentions of sharing with anyone else but keep it all for himself
 7. Five times in verses 17– 19 he speaks of what "I" will do, as if he owns it all.
 8. He speaks about "my" fruit, "my" barn, "my" goods, and "my" soul.

9. He's called a fool because he misjudged the priorities of life
 - a. This life is not all there is; we'll all face God to give an account one day
 - b. He also misjudged that all things belong to the Lord
 - i. Our souls are a gift from Him
 - c. The farmer wants to eat, drink and be at ease
 - d. Not feeling the concern of anyone else
 - e. This is the essence of greed
 - f. And now he'll enter eternity to stand before God
 - g. None of what he's accumulated will help
 - h. **Vs. 21** This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God
10. How do you respond to the wealthy farmer's dilemma?
 - a. **If we say, " I wish I had that problem"**
 - i. That may be a sign that you're gripped by greed
 - ii. You can be poor and greedy
 1. Many poor buy lotto
 - b. **Do I enjoy material things more than I enjoy knowing God?**
 - i. If my happiness soars when I get a new car, but I am bored by the things of God, I may be greedy.

ii. If I rejoice when I win a raffle, but I yawn when I hear about a soul being saved, I may be greedy.

c. **How do I respond when I lose material things?**

i. When my bank account is low, do I fall apart?

ii. If I lose some of my things, does it devastate me?

iii. If so, then we're probably too attached to this world

d. **What would I do if I suddenly came into a fortune?**

i. What if someone left you a large inheritance?

ii. Would your first thought be, "Now I can get that better house or car"? "

iii. Now I can take that trip around the world...

iv. Or, would you think, "Now I can support dozens of missionaries"? "Thousands of people can hear about Christ because He has given me funds to invest in the spread of His kingdom!"

11. Why is this topic covered so much?

12. Isn't this section speaking to disciples?

a. Greed is one of several major distractions on your spiritual journey

i. It's subtle, unlike murder, stealing...

ii. Most people don't equate greed as a problem

1. Some call it ambition; the American dream...

- b. **1 Tim. 6:17-19** Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed
- c. As disciples, we may Love the Lord and want to serve Him, we still have an old nature that wants to climb down off the cross and claim what it lost
- d. Just because you're not grappling with this today, doesn't mean you won't in the future
 - i. As seasons change and time goes on, different traps are placed in front of you
 - ii. Ask Achan who crossed the Jordan with Joshua & witnessed God's miracles and Jericho tumbling down
 - iii. What happened Achan?
 - iv. Why did you take the gold, silver, garments?
 - v. Why did you hide them in your tent and think no one knew?

- vi. Because he coveted them, it brought destruction on him
- e. Ananias & Saphira, why did you agree to lie about what you gave?
 - i. Wasn't it all yours to decide how you want to spend it?
- f. Greed brings destruction

II. Contentment

1. **Vs. 22** Therefore, I tell you, don't worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear
2. You have a choice to believe God and not worry
3. You have a choice to be content
4. **1 Tim 6:6** But godliness with contentment is great gain.

How do we remain content?

a. Consider who you are

- i. When you look at the birds that don't sow or reap & God feeds them
 1. This doesn't mean we don't work
 - a. He who doesn't work shall not eat
 2. Even the birds fly around looking for it's food; searches for the worms & eats them
 - a. The idea is that it doesn't worry about it
 - b. God will provide

3. If the ravens are simply a creation of God,

4. You are a child of God

a. Much more valuable than birds

b. **Consider what worry does**

i. Worry doesn't help you solve any problems

ii. It only makes your health worse as you lose sleep & stress out

iii. **Vs. 29** speaks of an anxious mind

iv. It's been said that

1. 40% of the things we worry about are things that will never happen anyway.

2. 30% of the things that happen to us are things that happen to us in our past that we can't change at all

3. 12% are things that people have criticized us about.

4. 10% are things that we worry about in regards to our own health,

5. 8% of all the things you have ever worried about are legitimate areas of concern

v. **Margaret Cheney** "Said the robin to the sparrow,
'Friend, I'd surely like to know why these anxious human
beings rush about and worry so.'

Said the sparrow to the robin, 'Friend, I think that it
must be they have no heavenly Father such as cares for
you and me.'

c. **Consider who God is**

i. Do not be afraid little flock, for your Father has been
pleased to give you the kingdom

ii. The same God who can cloth the lilies greater than
Solomon will cloth you

iii. Your life is more than food and clothing

iv. He's a good Father who delights in blessing His children

v. No need to continue to beg God for the things He'll
provide anyway, He already knows

d. But seek first the kingdom of God & these things will be given
unto you

i. A disciples' priorities should be different from those of
the world.

ii. Unsaved people consume themselves with the pursuit of
food and clothing,

- iii. Disciples are to focus on pursuing a relationship with
God,
- iv. Allowing His will and rule and guidance in our lives as we
seek to serve him
- e. Begin by storing your treasure in heaven, because where you
invest, your heart follows
 - i. When you invest in God's kingdom, your heart is there
and you're more apt to pray for God's work

5. **So be on guard against greed – our old nature defaults there**

- a. Choose not to worry
 - i. Consider who you are
 - ii. Consider what worry does
 - iii. Consider who God is