

The 4th Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 30, 2025
“On the Way to Jerusalem ~ Greed & Godly Finances”

Luke 12:13-21

“Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

3 IMPORTANT LESSONS

#1. _____ is the source of _____.
Money, or the _____ of money, has a tendency to _____ people against each other.

“People who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is at the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:9)

Money can’t _____ us. It can _____ our lives. The pursuit of the material often leads people to value _____ instead of _____.

#2. Put your confidence in _____ not things.
Fool = *aphron* =

In the Bible, calling a person a fool is the greatest _____ you can give them. Jesus calls him a fool because he put his _____ for happiness and security in what he _____, and not in _____.

It’s ironic that the kind of person Jesus calls a fool is the person who is often called _____ in our world.

“I’ll sit back and say to myself, ‘Friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!’” (Luke 12:19)

The problem is, no amount of _____ can prepare us to meet the _____ of life—only _____ can. And He’s the One who will meet all our _____.

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. For life is more than food and your body more than clothing...Seek the Kingdom of God above all

else, and he will give you everything you need.” (Luke 12:22)

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32)

The man was guilty of storing up treasures for _____ and not being rich towards _____.

He was the beneficiary of what is called “_____ grace,” what God does for you even if you’re not a _____.

Examples of common grace =

No where do we see an attitude of _____—nowhere does he thank God for his _____.

A preoccupation with _____ things can easily lead us away from God—and _____ us from what’s really important.

#3. It is possible to _____ being attached to things.
“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where you treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

“Yet true religion with contentment is great wealth. After all, we didn’t bring anything with us when we came into the world, and we certainly can’t carry anything with us when we die.” (1 Timothy 6:6)

2 ALTERNATIVES TO PURSING MONEY

• Pursue _____.
Contentment = *autarkeia* =

A sense of _____ anchored in a _____ in God. Contentment comes from a belief that God will _____ for all our needs. Contentment draws satisfaction not from _____ or possessions, but from _____.

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” (Job 1:21)

• **Pursue a Godly** _____.

“But you, Timothy, belong to God; so run from all these evil things, and follow what is right and good. Pursue a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.” (1 Timothy 6:11)

In the course of our lives we’ll be faced with countless _____ between doing what’s _____ and what will bring the most gain. Every time we face one of these choices we’re at a crossroads—we’re deciding whether to add to our treasure in _____ or our treasure on earth.

Jesus ends the parable by saying that we’re called to be _____ towards God. God gives us riches to use for His _____, not to pamper our own _____.

What can I do with the investment God has given me so it will pay an eternal dividend?”

BEING RICH TOWARDS GOD: 5 PRACTICAL RULES

“Get wisdom—it’s worth more than money; choose insight over income every time.” (Proverbs 16:16)

Rule #1. _____.

The principle of _____.

“Riches can disappear fast, so watch your business interests closely. Know the state of your flock.” (Proverbs 27:23)

Rule #2. _____.

The principle of _____.

“Plan carefully and you will have plenty. If you act too quickly you will never have enough.” (Proverbs 21:5)

“Stupid people spend their money as fast as they get it.” (Proverbs 21:20)

Rule #3. _____.

The principle of _____.

“The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get.” (Proverbs 21:20)

“He grows rich who accumulates little by little.” (Proverbs 13:11)

Rule #4. _____.

The principle of _____.

“Indulging in luxuries, wine and rich food will never make you wealthy.” (Proverbs 21:17)

“Those who trust in their riches will wither, but the righteous will flourish like green leaves.” (Proverbs 11:28)

“Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.” (Luke 12:15)

“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.” (Hebrews 13:5)

Rule #5. _____.

The principle of _____.

“One tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy.” (Leviticus 27:30)

Tithe =

“Honour the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income, and He will fill your barns and overflow your barrels.” (Proverbs 3:9)

First fruits =

“A generous man will have God’s blessings.” (Proverbs 22:9)

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6:38)

“Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything.” (Proverbs 11:24)

“God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

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“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Luke 16:13)

How do you view money? What role does it play in your life? Are you storing up treasures on earth or in heaven? How faithful are you stewarding the things that God has given you?