

Sunday, February 18, 2024 | The Road to Redemption

Week 13 | Luke 12:13-21 | "Treasures, Pt. 1"

Last week, talked about perspective. God has already given us an *eternal* perspective so that we properly judge our earthly *situation* in the light of our heavenly *destination*. We already know how some key revelations that will help live a godly life today. For example, we know that **God knows all the secrets**. We ought not kid ourselves; one day, we'll stand before God and give an account of everything we've done or said in secret. This ought to make us **fear God**. Why? Because only God has the power to both kill the body and condemn the soul. We ought to make sure we're right with God before we meet him on that last day. However, to be clear, while we ought to revere God, we **should not be afraid of him**. Just as our heavenly Father knows every sparrow, he knows how many hairs are on top of our head. God loves us so much that we do not need to be in terror of him. Ultimately, taking these revelations to heart means we'll end up **pleasing God, regardless of who may we displease along the way**. Knowing we'll have to give an account of every idle word will keep us from becoming people-pleasers. Keeping these truths before our eyes will enable us to walk through life with some heavenly hindsight.

Today, we'll be talking about *treasures*. In fact, this message is part one of a two. And, in the first part, we'll be dealing with *earthly* treasures while, next week, we'll cover *heavenly* treasures.

When it comes to our possessions, it has often been said, "You can't take it with you." Since you're gonna leave everything behind when you die, you might as well live life to the fullest, right? The problem with this foolish proverb is that it gives no thought for the life to come. While it is true; you cannot take even a penny with you into the afterlife. Only a fool thinks they will not have to give an account for how they used the things God gave them.

Beware the folly of those desire earthly treasures. There is no such thing as self-made man or woman. A person has only what the Lord has given to them (cf. Jn. 3:27). Even the wealthiest, most successful person in the world has only God to thank for their success. And, make no mistake, all of us will be audited. The Lord of the Harvest will demand to see how we have used the fruits of his labor. Did we use his gifts for selfish gain? Or did we invest in the Kingdom of God? How tragic it would be to gain the world but lose one's soul (cf. Mar. 8:36). Conversely, how glorious it would be to gain both the world and one's soul (cf. Mat. 5:3).

Covetousness leads us to believe two lies:

i. **The more we have the happier we'll be.**

READ: Luke 12:13-15 (ESV)

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And 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.”

How many of us have thought, “If I only had _____, then I'll be happy?” Life is more than the stuff we buy at the store or the food we eat or the clothes we wear. A house won't make us happy. A car won't make us happy. If you wanted a million dollars and then got it, you'd still want a dollar more.

ii. **The more we have the safer we'll be.**

READ: Luke 12:16-21 (ESV)

¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’

²⁰But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

How many of us have thought, “If only my bank account was at \$ _____, then I'll feel secure.” But the reality is that your bank account could be in the trillions or in the teens and, you still wouldn't be totally secure. And the person you rests in the security of their own riches is only setting themselves up for failure. One could have enough money to weather every hardship; but, when God says its your time to go, it's your time to go. No one is ever truly safe. Should you live another day you have God to thank.

Why did God call the rich man a fool? Was it because he was rich? No. To be rich, so long as the wealth was acquired lawfully, is not in and of itself wrong. Was the rich man called a fool because he built bigger barns to store his crops? No. A successful business, so long as its growth is not at the expense of others, is not in and of itself wrong. The reason God called the rich man

a fool was, to paraphrase Jesus, his life “[consist\[ed\] in the abundance of his possessions.](#)” Seeing the windfall coming his way, the farmer said to himself, “[Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.](#)” His security, sustenance, and satisfaction were tied to his bottom-line; the more it grew, the happier he became. And the happier he became, the more selfish he become. Notice all the personal pronouns and even how he talked to himself at the end.

In way, this parable has a bit of dark humor to it. Because, all the while the rich man worked, he thought he was building himself a great business. [He never considered that the most profitable day of his life was, in reality, the most profitable day for someone else.](#) The rich man’s riches made someone else rich.

So, what’s the takeaway?

[What is the outcome for those who prize *earthly* treasures? Utter poverty.](#)

[Caring too much—i.e., covetousness, greed, gluttony, etc.—for **earthly treasures** makes us **poor fools** in this life and the next.](#)

At the heart of this story, Jesus is warning of common pitfall: *the solitary pursuit of earthly treasures is an obstacle to discipleship*. The Lord said in another place, “[No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money](#)” (Mat. 6:24).

Paul, speaking about false teachers, states that they imagine “godliness is a means of gain” (1 Tim. 6:5b). But true followers of God know that, when it comes to earthly possessions, less is more and more is less.

READ: 1 Timothy 6:6-10 (ESV)

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

In pursuing riches, we lead ourselves “[into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that \[will\] plunge \[us\] into ruin and destruction.](#)” Loving money, rather than God, is the “[root of all kinds of evil.](#)” Such a “craving,” leads us “away from the faith.” And thus,

without the Holy Spirit, we end up riddled and “pierced...with many pangs.” By our own hand, we hurt ourselves when we pursue riches rather than God.

Video Description:

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SPEAKER: Ben Hyrne, Pastor

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