



*"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col. 1:28*

## **"Possessed By Our Possessions"**

### **Luke 12:13-21**

April 23, 2023

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14 But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?"

15 Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

16 And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive.

17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'

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**13 Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."**

**"someone in the crowd"** – this is the same crowd as in 1-12.  
• So this guy heard all Jesus previously taught but made no application.

#### **Luke 16:14**

14 Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him.

**"teacher"** – not unusual for a matter like this involving a family dispute to be brought to a Rabbi/teacher.

• "Jesus, I want you to settle it."

• "Law of Primogeniture" (Deut. 21: Num. 27). Father dies, the inheritance goes to the first-born to manage the estate.

• This guy here is obviously the younger brother.

• His greed exhibited itself in covetousness.

• Covetousness, envy, jealousy are all outgrowths of greed.

• Inheritances can be nasty.

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**"Greed is an insatiable desire for the things of this world, an undue affection for and attachment to the materialism, riches, pleasures, and comforts of this world. Greed is a bottomless pit which exhausts the person in an endless effort to satisfy the need without ever reaching satisfaction."**

- Erich Fromm

**14 But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?"**

- **Think about it:** This guy interrupts Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, during a sermon to ask for this???? More money?? What?? You have got to be kidding me!!
- Jesus comes back with a very sharp, pointed statement.
- Jesus "came to bring people to God, not to bring possessions to people." - Leon Morris

**John 18:36**

6 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world."

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- Jesus wants to drive home the truth with an illustration, a parable.
- Parables were designed to illustrate truth.
- Who made the land productive? God.
- Nothing wrong with being rich or being productive.

**1 Tim 6:17**

17 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.

**Ecc1 9:10**

- 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might;
- So this guy has a bumper crop.

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### 17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'"

- Now he has a problem.
- Decision time.
- Decisions reveal what is in our hearts.
- He only wants to "store" his abundance. He has enough. He's rich. He doesn't need the extra.
- Maybe thinks - doesn't want to dump it on the market and drive the price down - more greed.
- So this guy is trying to figure out what he needs to do to store the extra amount of crop that he has accumulated.
- No consideration of donating or giving it away.
- **Options:** 1. He could give it to God. 2. He could share it with others.
- He chooses to store it. Greed is like drinking salt water.
- Like the rich young ruler in Luke 18, it was hard to give it up.

### 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.'

- This guy is only thinking about himself.
- His life was filled with six "I's", five "my's", and four "I will's", but nothing about God.
- Where is God in this whole picture?
- **"my grain and my goods"** – this guy is an accumulator.
- This is no small project.
- Greed is a hard driver. It will go to any length to get what it wants.

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"People say that money does not satisfy, but it does satisfy if you want to live on that level. People who are satisfied only with the things that money can buy are in great danger of losing the things that money cannot buy."

- Warren Wiersbe

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- Though his plan is for many years, in view of eternity, it is only very temporary.
  - This guy had a twisted, short-sighted perspective on life.
  - It's all about ME, ME, ME! My pleasure, my feelings, my enjoyment.
  - He is the first century example of the 1970 motto by Schlitz beer – "You only go around once in life. So grab for all of the gusto you can."
  - This man is a hedonist. **Hedonism** is the philosophy that pleasure and happiness are the primary or most important intrinsic goods and the proper aim of human life
  - **Note:** He is only talking to himself. No one else. It's his heart, his thoughts, and his greedy desires.
  - But riches, wealth, and materialism are deceitful –
- ### Matt 13:22
- 22 "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
- Steve Brown - "The most unhappy person in the world is not someone who didn't get what he or she wanted. The most unhappy person is the one who got what he or she wanted and then found out that it wasn't as wonderful as they expected."
- "Half the world is unhappy because it can't have the things that are making the other half unhappy."
- **Note:** Only place in Scripture that talks of retirement and not in a favorable light. Do what you can do for as long as you can do it.



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## Application

1. Where are you investing your treasure?
2. Am I content with God's sovereign plan for my life?
3. Are you generous with what you have?
4. Is there any possession in your life that possesses you?
5. If you were to die tonight, how would your discussion with God go?

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'

- How does God see this man? He is a fool.
- Fool: one who is lacking in mind, one who lacks good sense or judgment.
- Why is he a fool? Because he is going to die that night and leave it all behind.
- He left it all behind and sent none of it on ahead.
- He had bought into the belief that, "He who dies with the most toys – WINS."
- Note: God is the one taking his life from him. All lives are on loan from God.

## Mark 8:36-37

- 36 "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?  
37 "For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?  
• Then who will own all that you leave behind?"

## Ecc 2:18-19

- 18 Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me.  
19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity.

## James 4:13-14

- 13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."  
14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

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"Money never made anyone rich." - Seneca

"It is not the man who has too little, but the man who craves more, who is poor." - Seneca

## Matt 6:19-21

- 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.  
20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## Luke 16:11

- 11 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?  
• It is spiritual riches that are true riches.