

The Foolishness of Greed, Luke 12:13-21

Luke 12:13-21 “Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” 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.” And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And 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. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Big Idea: Greed destroys and is foolish.

Greed: All-consuming selfish desire to have more than others.

I. Greed Destroys

A. Greed distracts

Luke 12:13b “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

B. Greed divides

Luke 12:14 “But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?”

C. Greed deceives

Luke 12:15 “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.”

1. Greed is a subtle sin

1 Timothy 6:10 “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.”

2. Greed doesn't satisfy

Ecclesiastes 5:10 “He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.”

3. Greed does not save

Luke 12:15b “for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

II. Greed is Foolish

A. The fool lives for himself

Luke 12:16-19 “And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And 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. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’

B. The fool forgets God

Luke 12:20 “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’”

James 4:13-15 “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

C. The Fool is not rich toward God

Luke 12:21 “So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Closing: Be rich toward God

Luke 12:34 “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

1 Timothy 6:17–19 “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 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.”

Benediction: Matthew 6:19–21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”