

Luke 12:13-21 Dr. William C. Nolte

MESSAGE NOTES

Thursday, March 3 Sunday, March 6

Transformation Ministries

More Healthy Churches -- More Changed Lives

• As an Association of Churches and leaders, Transformation Ministries continued to experience significant growth in 2021. Nho with some 250 churches in 15 States in the US and in Northern Mexico.

• TM signed an all-time record number of Church Planters for a single year with 25 new churches started to reach people wiht the Gospel.

Specific leaders were identified and placed in SIX GEOGRAPHIC HUB areas outside Southern California in order to serve leaders and churches more effectively across the nation.
2021 was the first year of TM's *Thriving in Ministry Initiative --* A major partnership with the Lilly Endowment to enhance the support for Ministry leaders who are planting churches.
TM Camping thrived in spite of a second year

of COVID challenges and is currently in the best financial position in the history of TM. TM Camping now includes four Camps; two Outdoor Education Programs; management of the San Bernardino Regional Park at Lake Gregory in Crestline, CA.

• Even in a second year of COVID uncertainty the vast majority of TM churches stayed on mission with flexibility, creativity and faithfulness.

• In 2021, we embarked on HORIZON 2025. This three to five year focus is grounded in *Expecting and Experiencing things ONLY GOD will accomplish.*

Thank you Gateway Visalia for your faithful partnership and leadership in TM Mission.

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the *family* inheritance with me."¹⁴But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?"¹⁵Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your gaurd against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." ¹⁶And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. ¹⁷And he began reasoning to himself, saying 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store y crops?'¹⁸Then 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.¹⁹And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' ²¹So is the man who stores up treasure for himself. and is not rich toward God."

Abundance/Abundant life is absolutely what God wants for you!

Why does Jesus say the Rich Man is a fool?

- He never saw beyond himself
- He never saw beyond this world

What do we miss?

- · Possessions do not come with a "pink slip"
- · God is sovereign over your time

APPLICATION -- Two Questions

- Which direction is your life focus and energy?
- With regard to TIME and STUFF: Why and What?

Read Luke 12:13-21

The Psalmist says, "The fool says in his heart 'there is no God'". (Psalm 14:1) This is often called "practical atheism" – acting as if God does not exist or doesn't care. Where do you see this in the world today? How about in your own life?

Andy Stanley (Enemies of the Heart) writes that the solution to Greed is Generosity. Do you agree? If so how? If not, why not?

Do you see that a person is either focused TOWARD self or TOWARD God? How so?

How would "seeking God first" lead us toward abundant life?

In what ways could you be more effective as a manager of time and possessions in your own life?

What one specific action can you take this week so as not to be like the "rich fool" of Luke 12?