

# THE IDOLS OF MATERIALISM AND MONEY

Luke 12:13-21; 16:13

## KEYS TO AVOIDING IDOLATRY OF MONEY AND MATERIALISM:

### **EMBRACING A HEART OF CONTENTMENT IN CHRIST**

- *“Someone from the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’ 14 ‘Friend,’ He said to him, ‘who appointed me a judge or arbitrator over you?’ 15 He then told them, ‘Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one’s life is not in the abundance of his possessions.”* (Luke 12:13)
- **Greed - An intense, selfish desire to possess more of something—most commonly wealth, power, or food—than is necessary, fair, or deserved. It is characterized by an insatiable urge for continuous accumulation, often at the expense of others.**
- *“Do not covet your neighbor’s house. Do not covet your neighbor’s wife, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”* (Exodus 20:17)
- **If Jesus and what He has done for you isn’t enough bring you contentment, nothing will ever bring you lasting satisfaction.**
- *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. 8 If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”* (1 Timothy 6:6-10)

# NOT ALLOWING OUR BLESSINGS TO LEAD US INTO SELF-CENTEREDNESS

- **God created us to worship Him and He instructs us to love and serve others.**
- *“Then he told them a parable: ‘A rich man’s land was very productive. 17 He thought to himself, ‘What should I do, since I don’t have anywhere to store my crops? 18 I will do this,’ he said. ‘I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and store all my grain and my goods there. 19 Then I’ll say to myself, ‘You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.’”* (Luke 12:16-19)
- *“Then an expert in the law stood up to test him, saying, ‘Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ 26 ‘What is written in the law?’ he asked him. ‘How do you read it?’ 27 He answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”* (Luke 10:25-27)
- **In a culture that pushes self above others, stand out and be set apart by showing your love for God through selfless love and consideration for others.**
- *“One person gives freely, yet gains more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor. 25 A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water.”* (Proverbs 11:24-25)
- **The pathway to living a blessed life is through generosity.**

### **ENSURING THE LORD HAS OUR WHOLE HEART**

- **You can accumulate earthly treasure and still be spiritually bankrupt if you are not rich toward God.**
- *“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—whose will they be?’ 21 ‘That’s how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.’”* (Luke 12:20-21)

- **When money becomes your security, God becomes your backup plan, and Jesus never shares His throne.**
- Jesus - *“No servant can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”* (Luke 16:13)
- **The tragedy of the rich fool was not that he had wealth, but that he planned his future as if he did not need God.**
- *“Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.”* (Colossians 3:5)
- **Greed is dangerous because it quietly convinces us that what we have can do what only God can do.**

**\*\*CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION ON BACK\*\***

## **CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

### **Observation:**

- According to the parable in verses 16–19, what was the rich man’s plan for his wealth and future?
- What does God call the rich man in verses 20–21, and why?
- In Luke 16:13, what does Jesus teach about serving both God and money?

### **Understanding**

- The sermon defines an idol as anything we trust in, love, or put above God. Why can money and possessions so easily become idols in our culture and our lives?
- What are some subtle signs that money or material success may be taking too large a place in someone’s heart?
- Jesus warns against greed and says life is not found in possessions. Why is contentment so difficult to maintain in a culture constantly pushing “more”?
- What helps you personally stay grounded in gratitude and contentment instead of comparison and coveting?
- The rich man only thought about himself and his comfort. How can blessings become dangerous when they lead us toward self-centeredness instead of generosity?
- In what practical ways can believers use their resources to love God and serve others?
- Why is it dangerous to place our security in money, success, or possessions instead of God?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to become “rich toward God” through generosity, trust, or stewardship?

### **Loving Outward:**

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?