

Resurrection Shaped Lives: What Really Matters

Luke 12:13–34

Introduction

No one ever says, “My biggest problem is greed.”

We’ll admit to worry. We’ll admit to stress. We’ll admit to being busy.

But greed? That feels like someone else’s problem.

And yet—Jesus talks about it all the time.

Because greed doesn’t usually feel like greed. It feels like responsibility. It feels like planning. It feels like *just wanting to be secure*.

And that’s exactly where this passage begins. A man steps out of the crowd and says: “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

It sounds reasonable. It sounds fair. But Jesus hears something deeper.

And instead of settling the dispute—He exposes the heart.

I. The Illusion That More Equals Life (vv. 13–15)

“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness...”

Jesus refuses to play judge in a financial disagreement. Why?

Because the issue isn’t ultimately about money. It’s about **what this man believes will give him life**.

“Be on guard...” That’s strong language.

Not just *notice it*— **watch out for it**.

Because greed is subtle. It hides behind:

- “I just want to provide for my family”
- “I just want to be wise”
- “I just want to be secure”

And Jesus says: “Your life does not consist in the abundance of your possessions.” That cuts against everything we’re told.

We measure life by:

- What we own
- What we've achieved
- What we've accumulated

But Jesus says: **That's not life.**

The Expanding Life

Have you ever noticed how quickly “enough” changes?

You get the raise... and adjust your lifestyle. You get the house... and fill it with more. You upgrade... and then normalize it. It's like chasing a horizon—you never arrive. Because the problem isn't what you have.

It's what you believe it's doing for you.

The resurrection exposes the illusion that this life is all there is.

If Christ is risen—then accumulating more here is a poor strategy for eternity.

II. The Tragedy of a Full Barn and an Empty Soul (vv. 16–21)

Jesus tells a story.

A man has an incredibly successful year. His land produces abundantly. And his problem? “I don't have enough room to store all this.”

So he makes a plan:

- Tear down barns
- Build bigger ones
- Store everything
- Sit back and enjoy life

And on the surface, it sounds wise. Strategic. Responsible.

But listen closely to his language: “My crops... my barns... my grain... my goods... my soul...”

There's no room for God. No thought of others. No awareness of eternity. And then God speaks: "You fool. This night your soul is required of you." Everything he prepared for—he would never experience.

He had more than enough to live on—but nothing to live for.

The Unused Inheritance

There have been stories of people who spend their whole lives building wealth for retirement...Only to pass away shortly after they stop working. All that planning—for a future they never step into.

That's this man. Prepared for the wrong future.

The resurrection redefines what it means to be rich. You can have everything this world offers—and still be bankrupt in eternity.

Or you can have very little here—and be rich toward God.

III. The Invitation to Live Free from Anxiety (vv. 22–31)

"Do not be anxious about your life..."

Now Jesus turns to His disciples. Because greed and anxiety are connected.

Greed says: "I need more to be secure."

Anxiety says: "What if I don't have enough?"

Both reveal the same issue: **A struggle to trust God.**

So Jesus points them somewhere surprising: To creation.

"Consider the ravens..."

"Consider the lilies..."

They don't store. They don't strive. And yet—God provides.

It's not accidental that Jesus points to the natural world here. All throughout Scripture, God meets people in places like:

- Gardens
- Wilderness

- Mountains

Places where control is stripped away. Places where there's no pretending.

Places where you're reminded: **You are not sustaining your life.**

God is.

Creation becomes a living reminder: If God cares for them—He will care for you.

And if God did not spare His own Son—but raised Him from the dead— You can trust Him with your daily needs.

IV. The Call to Seek a Better Kingdom (vv. 32–34)

“Fear not, little flock...”

This might be one of the most tender lines in the whole passage. “Little flock.” You're not strong. You're not self-sufficient.

But you are **deeply loved**. “For it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Not reluctantly. Not begrudgingly. **Gladly.**

And then comes the call: Sell your possessions. Give to the needy. Store up treasure in heaven.

Your treasure doesn't just reveal your heart—it directs it.

Because Jesus is alive, the Kingdom is real. So invest there.

The Gospel Invitation

We spend so much of our lives trying to secure ourselves. Building. Saving. Storing. Trying to create a life that feels safe. But Jesus shows us a different way.

He didn't store up treasure—He gave everything.

He became poor—so we could become rich.

He went to the cross empty-handed—so we could receive a Kingdom.

And the resurrection declares: **Life is not found in what you hold onto— but in what you receive from Him.**

So the invitation today is simple: Let go.

Not because things are bad—but because they were never meant to be your life. Come to Christ. Trust Him. Receive what only He can give.

1. Identify What You're Trusting

What makes you feel secure?

2. Loosen Your Grip

Where is God calling you to give?

3. Practice Daily Trust

Replace anxiety with prayer

4. Invest Eternally

Time, resources, attention toward what lasts

Imagine trying to carry everything you own... everywhere you go.

Eventually, the weight would crush you. That's what we do spiritually.

We carry things that were never meant to hold us. But resurrection life says: You can put it down.

Because your life is not in what you carry—it's in who holds you.

If Christ is risen, you don't have to cling to what's temporary—you're free to live for what lasts forever.