

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

"Money Health" | Rev. Craig Chapman | 22nd Sunday after Pentecost (10/24/2021)

Deuteronomy 8:11-19

8:11 "Take care lest you forget the Lord your God ... 12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them,¹³ and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied,¹⁴ then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ... 16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. 17 Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' 18 You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, ...

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

9:6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 ... for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, ... 9 As it is written,

"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched <producing> thanksgiving to God.

Luke 12:13-25

12:13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me ... 15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, ..." 16 And he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced plentifully,¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' 18 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. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." 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?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

22 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, ... 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"

Introduction *To Witness and to Bless*, a continuing series on the parables of Jesus, casting a vision for All Saints.

Background

The parable opens with a dispute over inheritance. Referencing a previous sermon in this series, ("Which soil are you?" – Luke 8), Craig suggested that this attitude reveals the seed that "fell among the thorns" and was choked out by the cares of this world. It warns against a "pervasive pandemic" of greed and envy; we want what those "above us" have, and we look with disdain upon those "below us" economically. Craig also noted that nobody has ever come to him for counsel about a greed problem! Elon Musk has predicted that Austin will be "the next boom town" (making us wonder what to call the last 20 years), and Craig pointed out that every boom town needs churches and mercy ministry. Will we "Witness to and Bless" others?

The Disease (Symptoms): Notice how often the "rich man" in Luke 12 refers to himself. This shows an inward focus, but also helps explain why we are so blind to the "disease". Only a third of Americans earning \$100K/year see themselves as economically secure, and as Nelson Rockefeller said over a century ago, enough is "just a little more". But this is a matter of treasure not of wealth in itself. We can be over-savers who seek our security in our bank accounts, or we can be over-spenders who seek status in possessions. God provides for the birds and will surely provide for us in the expectations that we will use His provisions to be a witness to and to bless those around us, always depending on Him alone for our security and our worth.

The Cure: Giving generously and joyfully is the antidote to money sickness. We each have a "precious" that feels like the key to life, but only Jesus gives life rather than demanding it of us. As we consider God's lavish grace toward us – the "100% tithe" that Jesus gave for us and the fact that we are God's treasure, the hold that greed has upon us will loosen. And as we let go practically by giving of our riches, we witness to the grace of God in our lives and bless those whom God has made our neighbors.

Discuss:

- 1.) Do you control your money, or does it control you?
- 2.) Do you tithe? Why or why not? How does God's provision allow you to witness to & bless others?
- 3.) How would being more generous affect your life and attitude now? How would it witness to and bless your "neighbors"? And how would it affect your readiness for death?

By Bob Donaldson