

Jesus Doesn't Want Your Money Outline

Luke 12:13-21

- I. Jesus doesn't want your money.
 - A. More than that, Jesus doesn't want your money to have you!
 - B. (34) **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

- II. Jesus' teaching.
 - A. Jesus directs His speech to His disciples BUT He wants everyone else to overhear Him!
 - B. Jesus had been having a serious talk about serious things but gets interrupted by a man who completely changes the subject.
 - C. The man wants legal help from Jesus to get his brother to give him his portion of the family inheritance.
 1. It was normal practice to go to a rabbi for settling legal disputes.
 2. Jesus was a rabbi, yet was not sent to "judge" worldly matters but spiritual.
 - a. Throughout the New Testament, Jesus avoids the worldly concerns: politics, family matters, economic, ETC.
 - b. Jesus is very concerned and involved in your spiritual life.
 3. Examples:
 - a. The rich young ruler.
 - b. Zaccheus

- III. The parable in medical terms.
 - A. The illness.
 1. The illness is greed/covetousness (15a)
 - a. *Pleonexia =having unquenchable thirst: drinking salt water makes you thirstier.*

- b. (15b) *Abundance* = more than you need, excess.
 - 2. You will never get “real life” from the material.
- B. The cure.
 - 1. Land that greatly produces is not the problem.
 - a. “Productive” = *euphoreo* = being filled with extreme joy.
 - 2. Wealth creates many choices.
 - a. The man chooses to build more barns and keep everything for himself.
 - b. Insight into the man (18) 6 “I’s” and 5 “my’s”.
 - 3. The cure: remember God, others, and your own mortality!

1st Timothy 6:9 **Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge man into ruin and destruction... for the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil... and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith.... And pierced themselves with many a pang...**

Ecclesiastes 2:18 **Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I labored under the sun... for I must leave it to the man who will come after me...and who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool?... Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored **acting wisely** under the sun... this too is vanity!**

IV. The Prescription.

- A. The prescription is to get rich toward God by not storing up treasure for yourself....Give it to others and God!
- B. The problem isn't possessions, it is your attitude towards them.

Antidote.....1st Corinthians 13:13 tells us what the true Christian character is made up of, three cardinal virtues, **Now abide in these things... faith...hope...love...**

Jesus Doesn't Want Your Money Pastoral Notes

Luke 12:13-21

Read Luke 12:13-21

There are a few subjects they will tell you... is not wise to preach on if your goal is to fill the seats of your church.... Religion...Politics... and money....a full church is wonderful...but In that it is NOT our prime goal here to fill the seats with people but rather glean the truth from the Almighty God's Word... regardless of whether we like it or not... let's talk about money!

When you stop to think about money in a kind of detached way...we all think about money whether we want to or not in a very attached way... but if you can ever stop and just think philosophical about it...all money is, is metal and paper...

The actual value of money is very insignificant...a one hundred dollar bill is worth 8.5 cents... money is going through radical changes these days... a cashless society is becoming more and more a reality...cryptocurrency...bitcoin...

An article in Inc. Magazine about money began with this:

Money doesn't actually exist....Sure, money exists in that we can hold paper bills and silver coins in our hands, and watch the numbers on our bank statements rise and fall. But the value of money is essentially imaginary. Its only value exists in what we as a society assign to it. [in the context of this morning I would add... if money is treasure... it's value exists in what we as individuals assign to it] *And, unfortunately, we tend to assign it way more than it's actually worth.*

Money is only valuable because it gives us access to things, like bread or shoes that we need or want, or to having new experiences or the ability to give back....

Well... for something that does not actually exist... we sure spend a lot of our lives trying to get it!... and we can't get enough of it...it doesn't matter if it is metal...paper or crypto... the desire for it never lessens...most of the time intensifies.

I don't relish talking about money... I've only talked about money from the pulpit when the subject comes up as we travel through the books of the Bible... it is not a subject I would pull out and say... "hey let's talk about money this morning"... it would not be MY choice of subjects...

One main reason for this is that there is a general view that preaches are always asking for money...the first complaint about Christians and church is that we are all hypocrites... the second is we are always asking for your money....even if it doesn't actually exist... we are always asking for it.

Some of this of course is justified... many "ministries" under the Christian banner have greatly abused and criminally sought after the dollar... there is a heretical theology called "the Prosperity Gospel.... Preachers flying around in their Gulfstream private jets...

So...Let me begin with point number one.... And the title of this sermon:

1. Jesus does not want your money!

He doesn't want your money... but He does want something from you... but it isn't your money!... we'll unravel this as we go.... For not wanting your money... Jesus sure talks a lot about it...

- Jesus talked about money more than He did Heaven and Hell combined.
- Jesus talked more about money than anything else except the Kingdom of God.
- 11 of the 39 parables in the New Testament talk about money.
- 1 of every 7 verses in the Gospel of Luke talk about money.

Jesus doesn't want money... but more than that... He doesn't want money to have you!

This is all a heart issue.... Jesus doesn't want us to place our hearts on our money... or more accurately... on material wealth....or even more accurately...material treasure ANYTHING that the world has to offer us.

Further down in chapter 12 is An important familiar verse... (34) **For where your treasure is there your heart will be so....** *Your heart... is always is chasing after your treasure...* think about it... where is your heart? ... it's right behind your treasure!... if you've lost your heart... go search for your treasure and you will find it!

What is your treasure?... it's what your heart mostly desires.... It's what keeps you up late at night thinking about....look at your heart and you will find your greatest desires... your treasure.

We go to Costco because they have rotisserie chickens for \$4.99... you can't beat that!... you can't buy a chicken to rotiserate for 4:99...Costco sells them rotiserated for \$4.99!... So you go to Costco ***to save money.***

You might *save even more* by spending \$1.50 for a coke and a hotdog... \$1.50!!! So your heart takes you to Costco... while you're there...your heart says... check out the other stuff... and your heart takes you up and down the aisles...

And what do you find?... treasure!... And your cart is full of things you didn't know you needed until your heart was placed next to them.... so you go home with an amazing deal on chicken and a hot dog... and \$350.00 of stuff!....

The heart is always chasing what you treasure...our prayer should be... *God I want my heart to make You my treasure!*

What is true today was certainly true even during the time of our Lord and Savior Jesus... in fact... it has been the case throughout all of history... we have an insatiable affinity for wealth... and more wealth...and wealth has never been the issue.

For the last few weeks we've been joining Jesus talking to His disciples through some parables... He's been speaking to the twelve.... But He's also speaking to those who have placed themselves under His teachings...they are all there for different reasons...some are interested in His miracles... some are interested in being part of a movement.

Some of them perhaps are actual believers that Jesus is the Messiah...most I think were simply interested seekers... they knew He was something special.... Someone not ordinary.... And they wanted to learn what He had to teach.

Jesus is a pretty savvy teacher... There's a lot those of us who are public speakers could learn in how to keep your audience engaged....

By the time we get to Luke 12...there's a pretty large number of people following Jesus... verse 1 tells us there were actually thousands there...some estimate tens of thousands...Jesus is attracting huge crowds... they are stepping over each other to hear this Jesus... Something I never caught until a few years ago when I studied this passage ...

Jesus doesn't talk to *them* however...the tens of thousands... He directs His speech and attention to the twelve disciples..... BUT!

Here's what I'm talking about... He speaks loud enough for everyone else to hear Him... and this is intentional... because what He's saying to the 12 disciples... He wants everyone else to hear as well.... He wants them to **OVERHEAR** what He's saying....

Really!.... later on Peter... in verse 41 asks Jesus....**Lord...You addressing the parable to us, or to everyone else as well?....**

You want to engage a crowd....you want them to get the truth you have to say?... let them think they are overhearing you!... they will bend their necks... turn their ears towards.... Step on each other's feet to position themselves to hear what you are saying!....that's how nosey people are!

Now what they have been hearing.... What they've been overhearing has been some of Jesus's toughest words...found in Luke 11.. important things...

- ***Beware of the Pharisees***..... beware of people who are hypocrites... those who are acting as though they are so very good and pure.... But inside they are filthy..... these people can mislead you.... They can direct you to an eternity in hell....
- ***A day is coming when everything in the world will be revealed***.... All of your secrets... all of the things everyone is hiding.... The light is going to come on and there will be judgment.
- Don't be afraid of anyone... they can only at most kill your body... **BE AFRAID OF THE ONE THAT CAN SEND YOU TO ETERNITY IN HELL!**..... these are big topics!...vital teachings!... with eternal consequences.....
- Chapter 12...***God knows every sparrow in existence***... the least valuable in the food chain... yet He knows them.... And cares for them... they are valuable to Him... how much more valuable are you! He knows you.... He even knows how many hairs are on your head!.... and He loves you so much more than the little sparrows!
- Fear God!....Confess Jesus Christ!....Hear the Holy Spirit reveal God's word to you!

That's what's going on... Intense teaching...This is a very important serious dissertation!.... and yet.... Right in the middle of it.... Some guy blurts out....***TEACHER!....tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me!***

Really?... Seriously?... *we're talking eternity in heaven or hell... and you interrupt me with that?*

I love the story Ray tells back when he was teaching a Sunday School class through the book of Jude... big stuff in Jude... talk about serious stuff!.... judgement... false teachers... lawlessness...Gnosticism.... Smack in the middle of this sobering teaching... this guy raises his hand to ask a question...*whatever happened to the dinosaurs?*

One Sunday after I preached... a pretty emotional topic... one's salvation... end the service and the song we sang was so moving... holding back tears badly... and as soon as the service concluded this guy comes up and asks... *May I ask you a question?... I'm just curious... I've been looking at your microphone headset... how do you like it?*

We know Jesus was just a little irritated at this guy because He says in verse 14... ***Man! Who appointed Me judge or arbitrator over you!?***.... we know that's edgy because of how He used the word "man" used here... it was an impolite version of man.... It would be like me saying *listen mister!*... *Hey buddy!*.... *who do you think you are?*... not a very polite version

Now to cut this guy a little slack... in that day it was normal to go to the town rabbi when you had a legal dispute to take care of.... They were an arbitrator.... someone who would hear both sides of an issue and make the final decision...

So it would have been normal and appropriate for this guy to seek out a rabbi to get this inheritance issue settled out... obviously this guy was so single minded... he found Jesus considered Him a rabbi.... Didn't care a bit about what He had been saying... all he cared about was getting some of the family money....

TEACHER!.... *tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me!*... Luke doesn't say much about this guy... but we can know this... He and his brother were all about money... this guy could only think about getting it from his brother.... And his brother obviously was the same because he was keeping it all!.... **TWO OBSESSED WITH MONEY.**

What Jesus responds to the man is something important for us to see... ***Man! Who appointed Me judge or arbitrator over you!?***... what Jesus is saying to the man is I'm not that kind of judge... *you think that God sent me to settle your economic disputes.... That's not my mission!... that's not why I am here!*

If you study the New Testament with open eyes... you will see that **Jesus... for the most part... stays out of physical matters**... **He didn't come with the mission to make our lives here on earth pleasant**... [that's not to say that if you become a Christian life won't be much, much better!].... this is so very important for us to grasp.... He stays out of politics... **let Caesar have what's Caesar's**

He stays out of family matters... He stays out of economic matters... He stays out of things dealing with **obtaining** earthly possessions all together!... why?... it's temporal and in the

long run... Inc magazine is right!....it has no REAL value ...that earthly value has an expiration date.....that's part of **My kingdom is not part of this world!**

He's telling this guy basically... *find another rabbi.... I will render no decision or opinion on matters social...legal or economic.... BUT... LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION.... THAT'S WHAT I AM THE JUDGE OF.... THAT WHICH AFFECTS ALL OF YOUR ETERNITY...that's what is of true value...*

This goes in the face of any prosperity gospel that is being espoused today....the idea that coming to Jesus will improve your physical life.... That's part of why I say Jesus doesn't want your money... **He wants your life**....

Coming to Jesus may affect your politics, economics and family life... probably adversely!

Rich Young Ruler

We point at the Rich Young Ruler..... *What good thing can I do to inherit eternal life?.... **Keep the commandments!**...well...I've done all that!... REALLY?...Let's check that out...GO AND SELL ALL YOUR POSSESSIONS AND GIVE TO THE POOR...*

Not...*Sell all your stuff and give Me the money!*...no... give it away to the poor...how's that going to make my life better?.... Jesus knew this young man had a spiritual problem...a heart problem.... It was fixed on his possessions... Jesus didn't want one dime of the proceeds.... He wanted this young man to see his spiritual condition... he loved his stuff!...his stuff was his treasure... that's where his heart was located..... much like the man here in Luke.

Zacchaeus

Remember Zacchaeus?...the day he got his salvation he exclaimed to Jesus.... *½ of my possessions I will give to the poor....* Jesus didn't say... *here's your salvation now give me ½ of your possessions...* JESUS DOESN'T WANT YOUR MONEY.... HE WANTS YOU!...

Back to Luke...After Jesus tells this man He's not a judge over this man's physical life...He delivers to the man a warning..... In fact... we could look at the rest of this in medical terms... there is an ILLNESS.... A CURE..... A PRESCRIPTION.... Jesus gives this man a warning which is referring to the illness.

THE ILLNESS

Read verse 15a

Jesus looks right into the man's heart and sees the problem... it is **greed**... it's a stronger Greek word *pleonexia*... it implicates **greed along with covetousness**.... All that means **to have an inordinate desire for riches**... such a strong desire that one would do whatever it takes to get them...and keep them... scheming... extorting...even eventually the possibility to murder for them....

It is a wicked condition of the heart.... It is the idea of being extremely thirsty and the thirst cannot be quenched.... It would be like being on a boat in the ocean and you are so very thirsty.... But all there is, is salt water..... so you drink it only to get thirstier....you drink more.... You get even thirstier.....salt water can't quench thirst....

Remember *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*?.... Water, water, everywhere...Nor any drop to drink.

That's the idea of greed... the desire for things can't be satisfied... the more you get the less satisfied you are... **the sin is not in the having more of something... IT IS THE SIN OF BEING DISCONTENT WITH WHAT YOU HAVE!**...the heart doesn't rest...

Nowhere does Jesus say that it is wrong to have things.... Make a lot of money...it's the attitude over all of it... it is one's defining life as the acquisition of material possessions... it is the deadly sin if serving the creature rather than the creator!

(verse 15b) for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions... [when you do, when you don't... that's not life!]

Abundance means more than enough... more than you need... more than what is sufficient... *you have more than enough and it still doesn't provide life!*...what kind of life?... when Jesus talks about life... there are two kinds He refers to... one is biological life...*bios*...the idea of being physically alive rather than dead....

The word used here is not that one... it is *zoe*... which is the inner life.... Everything that makes life WORTH living... satisfaction.... Fulfillment... enjoyment...meaning....purpose... SO... even when you get tons of stuff.... You still will not find *zoe*... satisfaction... meaning... purpose... enjoyment.... (Lasting enjoyment).

YOU WILL NEVER GET REAL LIFE FROM A MATERIAL WORLD...NEVER!... so this guy yells out to Jesus... *tell my brother to give me my part of the inheritance!*... Jesus says....*go get yourself an attorney.... Those aren't the deals I get involved with..... but since you asked... I see a deep problem with your request.....*

You're discontent with what you have...an abundance... and you want more...you think that having more is going to make your life better..... that's your real problem..... and yes... that is the kind of thing I can help you with!

IT'S LIKE HAVING AN ILLNESS.... BUT THIS ILLNESS IS THE SIN OF GREED....TRYING TO ACQUIRE MORE AND MORE THINKING THAT WILL GIVE YOU PEACE AND SATISFACTION..... LET ME TELL YOU THE CURE FOR THIS ILLNESS:

THE CURE

He gives him the cure..... and everyone else listening... by telling him a parable... for a refresher.... Parable simply means *to place alongside*....in this case.... A simple story placed alongside a principle.... A principle Jesus wants everyone to get.

Read verse 16

Nothing wrong with that scene... this rich man has some very good land... much is grown there and much is harvested there...it's **productive**.... Nothing wrong with that!.. I think it is very interesting what the Greek word is for "productive".... It is *Euphoreo*....we get the word *euphoria* from it....

Euphoria is being filled with extreme joy...so much that it oozes out of you..... it is not just being satisfied... it is over the top satisfaction.... Isn't that interesting that back in that culture they equated having a good crop... a successful harvest with the feelings of euphoria!... this man had land like that!

That is great!.... he should thank God for it!... nothing grows without the hand of God!.... He controls the rain... the sun... all of the elements that go into farming a successful crop.... [and we should thank God for everything we produce!]

Well.. this man has such a productive harvest he has a problem....

Read verse 17

Good question.... Good problem to have really!.... **Wealth creates many** choices.... now... this man has many options available to him... ways to solve this could include:

- **Build more barns**....Problem... that would take up some of the productive farm land...
- He could have a big farmers market and **sell it all off**.... But that would flood the market and lower the prices.... He wouldn't make much on that....a lot of effort, small profit.

- **He could give the excess away**....give it to a food bank..... a church to distribute to poor people... But that would lower the value of his crops...and he would lose some of his paying customers....

But this guy got an MBA at Harvard business school and decides to take a “long cash position”...or “market carry over” ...**tear down his barns and build larger ones!**

Read verse 18

It’s a solution... nothing wrong with the solution... might make the best business sense...

You know what stands out to me in verses 17, 18 & 19?... the amount of “I’s” and “My’s”.... six “I’s”....five “my’s”! I,I,I,I,I,,...My, My, My, My!My!

Do we have to guess at the main subject in this story?.... you want to get some insight into a person saturated with greed.... Listen to the I,I,I,I,I,I,I...My, My, My, My’s in their vocabulary!

Fill those new...huge barns with all the *ABUNDANT* grain.... REMEMBER ABUNDANCE?...MORE THAN YOU NEED!.... fill those barns up... **store it**...let it out when you can get the best price.... The most money possible.... To add to your already overflowing bank account!....GOOD BUSINESSMAN!....

And not only did he store his grain... it says in verse 18 that he would store his grain AND HIS GOODS!.... he’s got so much stuff other than his crops.... He can now store all of that also!....PEOPLE... THIS IS THE FIRST MENTION OF MINI-STORAGE UNITS IN HISTORY!

Is what he did wrong?.... I don’t think it is wrong to have successful crops... I don’t think it is wrong to make business decisions that will multiply your profit... I don’t think it is wrong to be just plain successful....

1st Timothy 6:9 **Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge man into ruin and destruction... for the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil... and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith.... And pierced themselves with many a pang...**

Read verse 19

This is really pathetic when you get what he’s saying...One commentator pointed out that this reveals he probably lives alone... **I will say to my soul**... not.... And I will say to my wife..... my family.... No...**I will say to my** soul... part of the four my’s....

This guy is set for life!...He's got it all!... he's been so very smart.... And clever... all he has to do is control the spout on the silo and only let the grain flow out when the price is highest!... other than that.... He can spend his days eating and drinking and partying..... with himself!

Now remember.... Jesus is telling this story.... And the huge crowd is listening.... What do you think they are all thinking?..... **THEY ARE SALIVATING OVER THIS MAN'S LIFE!**.....I'm sure they are thinking this guy has it made!

Here's a problem that this man has and doesn't know it... he has forgotten three huge things... in his obsession with himself.... His I's and my's... he forgot 1. There is a God....2. Other people exist....3. His own mortality!

He forgot God, others and his own mortality...

Read verse 20

Pretty tough words from God!.... you fool.... ***You mindless... ignorant...one who is destitute of knowledge.... Fool!.... all this effort to obtain... to keep... to yield... to hoard... all of these efforts... and someone else... who you don't even know is going to get it all and enjoy it... while you become food for worms!***

There is an old rabbinic expression in the Babylonian Talmud... ***This night THEY demand your soul***.... The **THEY** is Elohim... the plural form of the word God... God the Trinity...The Triune Godhead.... Father, Son, and Holy Spirit on this day will take your life...

How foolish all this is... to work and work and work.... Store up...store up more.... Tear down your good barns to make larger ones so you can store even more.... **All for yourself**.... Then die before you even get to play with any of it!

Ecclesiastes 2:18 Solomon says something like it... **Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I labored under the sun...for I must leave it to the man who will come after me...and who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool?... Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored **acting wisely** under the sun... this too is vanity!**

I've worked hard for all this stuff... this wealth and you know what's going to happen?....I'm going to leave it to some fool!

The illness is greed...wanting more and more and more..... never being satisfied... like drinking salt water... the cure is **to remember...** it's not just about you... God is in control of your life... He is the one who gives and takes away.....there are other people in the world....you are going to die and it is out of your control...

The Prescription

Read verse 21

The prescription is to get rich toward God by not storing up treasure **for yourself**....Out of the excess...from your abundance... Give it to others and God!... Those who are in need and to the furthering of the gospel of Jesus Christ!... How pathetic of us to have more than we need and spend all of our efforts and energy storing up more....

[Give some to the church!... I almost was going to say *Jesus doesn't want your money... but we do...* Thinking....other than paying our \$4000.00 monthly utility bill...think of all the ministries we could expand... but I decided not to say that....[church always asking for money and all that.....]

Do you think this parable.... Or this passage here in Luke 12 could possibly apply to any of us here in this building?.... **this last verse tells us that you are either storing up treasure here on earth for yourself...which moth and rust destroy... temporary.. or...by implication.... You are storing up treasure in heaven with God....which is eternal.**

---**Antidote**.....1st Corinthians 13:13 tells us what the true Christian character is made up of... three cardinal virtues.... **Now *abide* in these things... faith...hope...love...**

- I don't have faith in God if my faith in is my money...you can't serve two masters...*will God really take care of me?*
- I don't have true hope if I place my hope in my possessions...
- I don't have love if I hoard it all for myself!

This is all a heart issue.
