

The Madness of Pulling Down Houses and Putting Up Motels

Luke 12:15-21

Why Do We Want To Make Life a Game?

- ◆ Making life a game makes it impersonal: I can hurt you, step on you, cheat you, and lie to you because it's not personal. It's just a game.
- ◆ Making life a game makes your life the priority. It doesn't matter who is in second place, just so I'm first. It doesn't matter who is last, just so I'm not.
- ◆ Making life a game means I don't have to play by the rules. All the rules are relative so that I end up winning.

I. There is a great proverb concerning life as a game. (V.15)

A. Beware of the deceptive power of greed.

Luke 12:15 *And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness:*

“Self-promotion. Self-preservation. Self-centeredness. It's all about me! They all told us it was, didn't they? Weren't we urged to look out for number one? Find our place in the sun? Make a name for ourselves? We thought self-celebration would make us happy. . . But what chaos this philosophy creates.” - Max Lucado

B. Beware of the deceptive perception of greed.

Luke 12:15 . . . for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

1 Timothy 6:9 *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

II. There is a great parable concerning life as a game. (V.16-20)

“Gratitude is the ability to experience life as a gift. It makes our heart generous. It liberates us from the prison of self-preoccupation.”

A. He became distracted by the preoccupation of success.

Luke 12:16 *And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:*

“God had given this man gifts: the fertile ground, the rain and sun, and the abundance of fruit had been a gracious gift from the Lord.”

Psalm 24:1 *The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.*

Romans 2:4 *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

B. He became dominated by the pursuit of success.

Luke 12:17 *And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? (V.18) And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. (V.19) And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.*

He took a superficial approach instead of an eternal approach. In essence he said, *“This is all there is, I'm enjoying the best of what I've accomplished and I'm going to make the most of it.”*

Proverbs 22:1 *A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.*

III. There is a great paradox concerning life as a game. (V.21)

“There are perils to prosperity (Proverbs 30:7-9). Wealth can choke the Word of God (Matthew 13:22), create snares and temptations (1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19), and give you a false sense of security, but it does satisfy if you want to live on that level. People who are satisfied only with the things that money can buy are in great danger of losing the things that money cannot buy.”

-Warren Wiersbe

A. The great paradox of life is THINGS are not ours.

Luke 12:20 *But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*

“Most guns used in a crime are stolen. How evil! In the same way men blame God for evil in their life. How foolish!”

B. The great paradox of life is TIME is not ours.

Luke 12:20 . . . *this night thy soul shall be required of thee:*

This man had unknowingly made a dangerous exchange:
Matthew 16:26 *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

