**The Parable of The Rich Fool**

**Luke 12:13-21**

Parable = Gr. *Parabolē* = to lay something alongside something else so that a comparison can be made.

*In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another,…* Luke 12:1

Jesus warns them about two things that can stand in the way of their right decision to follow Him:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *1 Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.*

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *15…****be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.***

The deceitfulness of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or the deceitfulness of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can and will equally take people straight to hell.

The issue is not possessions; the issue is your\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toward those possessions.

… *those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.****10****For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.* 1 Timothy 6:9-10

At its core, the love of money is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***13Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”*** He’s a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***15“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness* (greed), *for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”***

Guard = Gr. *Phulassō* - a military term - provide protective vigilance against every form of greed, all covetousness (an inordinate desire for riches, grasping; the thirst for more.)

The sin is not in\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more.  The sin is being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

It's not about what you have. It's about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about what you have.

***“abundance”*** - You're never going to get true life from your stuff, even if you have\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’  ‘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. 19And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’***

What’s wrong with this man’s way of handling his riches is that he fails use them in a way that shows \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_than his possessions.

The materialist forgets three things: God, others, and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***20But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’*** *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* gets it all.

***21So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”***

If you give what you have to God now, it will be there\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ later.

***19****“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,****20****but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.****21****For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*  Matthew 6:19-21

“Rich toward God” means\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ greater riches than anything you have or might could earn.

Greed often isn’t a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_choice. Usually, it creeps up around us without our realizing it.

**How can I determine if I am falling into the sin of greed?**

**(1) Do my thoughts more often focus on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_than God Himself?**

**(2) Do I ever compromise\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the pursuit of material gain?**

**(3) Do I enjoy my stuff more than I enjoy knowing God and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

(**4) What would I do if I suddenly came into a fortune?**

Our hearts are\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ drawn to the material.

Why is greed so serious?

1) **Greed ignores the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over everything.**

 *“The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.”* Ps. 24:1

God rightfully\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

If He entrusts material goods and money to you, someday,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for how you invested it in light of eternity.

2) **Greed ignores the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the fact of eternity.**

The man had his bases covered for many years on earth, as many of us do, but not for\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.

The world says that life consists of things, but God says that life consists of being rightly related\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

God has blessed us with many things and it is legitimate to enjoy those blessings with thankful hearts. But it is also critical for Christ-followers to evaluate their lives and their stewardship. Could the deceitfulness of riches be getting a subtle stronghold on my life?

When you have more than you need, the first consideration is not a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The first consideration is toward God and toward others.

Please pray for the mission team leaving tomorrow morning for South Asia…November 17 – 28.

OOTB will be meeting on the SECOND Thursday in 2018. It’s going to be a great year!

Thank you for another fruitful year in ministry. You were a vital part of building God’s kingdom here and around the world in ways we will probably not understand this side of Heaven. To God be the glory!