



# HOW TO GET RICH

11.5.2017

Luke 12:13-21

- For the next three weeks we're going to be in Luke 12. In it, Jesus talks a lot about money and possessions.
- Luke tells us that Jesus has been surrounded by thousands of people. Jesus begins speaking directly to his Disciples BUT he allows the people that aren't yet his Disciples to listen in (12:1).

## 1. WHY THIS QUESTION AND ANSWER?

Q. First, why does this man come to Jesus with this question about money—about his inheritance?

LUKE 12:13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

- **A1.** He likely asks because **he recognizes Jesus as a Rabbi ("Teacher") with authority.**
- **A2.** He likely asks because **Jesus taught about money and possessions more than anything else.**
- **Roughly 28% of Jesus' teachings** recorded in the Gospel Accounts have to do with money and possessions.
- **Why? Because as Jesus says, "How you view money and use money, reveals the true nature of your heart."**
- **That's what He's getting at in Lk12:34 when He says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**

Q. Second, why does Jesus respond to the man this way?

LUKE 12:13 But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?"

- **This can be confusing because it seems like Jesus is saying, "I'm not a judge—who am I to judge right and wrong?"** But that's not what He's saying at all. He is the Judge; he frequently repeats that!
- **But in this instance, Jesus is saying, "I've not come to merely makes judgements in these small matters; i've not come to be a Judge or Arbiter to simply help you get what you want...I've come for much more than that."**

Q. Third, why does Jesus start talking about covetousness and then tell a parable?

- **Jesus always gets to the heart of any issue—He knows exactly what we all need and takes every opportunity to teach in light of the Eternal Weight of things, not just according to our temporary wants and longings.**
- **Jesus knows exactly what this man needs; He knows exactly what His Disciples need, & he gets to the heart.**

15a And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness..."

- **Covetousness is a greedy desire to get more and more and more.** It's the opposite of being content.
- **And the fact that Jesus says, "Be on your guard" is extremely important.** Why does he say it like that?
- **Because covetousness—having a greedy desire for more—is something that we are mostly blind to.**
- **Covetousness is like a deadly illness you won't know about without having frequent checkups.**
- **I've counseled a lot of people, for many different reasons—i've heard a lot of sin confessed and admitted.** But I can't remember one time that someone has said anything like, "I struggle with greed/covetousness."
- **And look at what Jesus says in the second half of verse 15!**

15b "...for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

- **Jesus is saying, "True life is not found in money or possessions (or in what they promise to do for you). True joy and satisfaction isn't IN it. And you must "take care and be on guard" against looking to them for your worth & ultimate satisfaction, because you probably don't even realize you're doing it."**

"Take care, & be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions"

## 2. HOW CAN WE BE ON GUARD AGAINST COVETOUSNESS?

Q. How can we be on guard; get frequent check ups on our hearts? A. I think this passage leads us to ask great questions.

## 1. Am I trying to *use* Jesus or be used by Jesus?

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” 14 But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?”

- **Q.** What is he doing? **A.** Well, he wants Jesus to fix some stuff in his life so he can get the stuff he really wants!
- Jesus has not come to improve your life—He’s come to kill your old life and resurrect you from the dead, making you a new person in Him. He’s not come to give you what you want, until what you want is Him.
- **Q.** Is Jesus a means to your end? Why do you pray? What do your prayers consist of?
- **Q.** Do you view Jesus like a really wise consultant, or do you submit to Him as the King whom you owe allegiance?

## 2. Am I content?

15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

- **1 Timothy 6:6-10**, “6 But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9 But 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.”
- Being discontent as a Christian—which is at the root of coveting—is ultimately like being dissatisfied unless you have more and more monopoly money. Yeah, you can use it in the game, but eventually it’s not worth anything.
- Second, Paul says here, that a **desire to be rich** will lead to you **plunge your hands into bear traps!**
- Third, he says, that **the love of money will lead you ultimately away from Jesus and into stabbing yourself!**
- **Q.** Why stabbing yourself? **A.** Because “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

## 3. What am I looking to for ultimate satisfaction?

16 And he told them a parable, saying, “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.”

- **One of the best ways to identify what you’re looking to for your ultimate satisfaction or your worth** (which is what the Bible would classify as an Idol) is not as much to look at your loves, but at your fears.
- **Q. WHAT DO YOU HAVE**, that if it was taken away, you would lose your sense of self? Or not know what life is? You wouldn’t just be sad, but ripped apart.
- **Q. What do you HOPE WILL HAPPEN** that if it doesn’t, you wouldn’t know what your life was about? You wouldn’t just be hurt, but destroyed.

## 4. Am I being faithful steward or a foolish hoarder?

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.”

## 3. HOW CAN WE BE RICH TOWARD GOD?

**2 CORINTHIANS 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

- The truth is, if we’re honest, we have all *SOUGHT TO USE JESUS* for our gain, we have all been *COVETOUS* (not content with what He’s providentially given us), *WE’VE LOOKED TO IDOLS* for ultimate satisfaction, and we *ALL HAVE BEEN FOOLISH HOARDERS*. We don’t have any way to be rich toward God—we’ve forfeited everything we could’ve invested.
- So Jesus, though rich, became poor for us. He took our sin, our spiritual poverty, our death, so we could be spiritually rich in Him forever. If you get that, if at the center of your life is Jesus dying for you, giving himself, you’ll want to be used by Him, not use Him. If you get that Jesus became poor on the cross to give you eternal life, you can be content not covetous. If you see and trust that Jesus drained so that you could be filled, you can be a generous and faithful steward of God’s stuff.