

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 7-25-10 AM NOTES
"BE ON GUARD AGAINST GREED"
LUKE 12:13-21
#10 in Series, "The Extreme teaching of Jesus"

- Over 6,000 people groups numbering 1.7 billion people are unreached and have little or no access to the gospel.
- One billion people in the world seek to exist on less than one dollar per day.
- Five hundred million people live on the verge of starvation.
- Two hundred million children are exploited for labor.
- Twenty six thousand children die each day of starvation or a preventable disease.
- Seventy five percent of the world's population lives on less than \$3,300 per year.
- The average annual household income of Christians in North America is \$42,409.
- The average North American Christian gives 2.5% of his income to the church.
- North American churches give 2% of those funds to overseas missions.
- Of every \$100 a North American Christian makes, only \$.05 goes to missions overseas.

I. The Setting (V13-14)

II. The teaching (V15)

Luke 12:15 (NIV) "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

"Greed isn't a harmless pastime but a serious offense against God. As one who lusts is an adulterer (Matthew 5:28) and one who hates is a murderer (1 John 3:15), so one who is greedy is an idolater (Colossians 3:5). Greed is money worship, a violation of the first and most fundamental commandment: 'I am the Lord your God... You shall have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:2-3).'"

- Randy Alcorn

1 Timothy 6:9-10 (NKJV) "⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Luke 12:15 (NASB) "...for not *even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

III. The Illustration (V16-20)

A. The Rich Man's Dilemma (V16-17)

Proverbs 30:8b-9 (NKJV) ⁸ "Give me neither poverty nor riches-- Feed me with the food allotted to me; ⁹ Lest I be full and deny *You*, and say, 'Who *is* the Lord?' Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God."

"The anxious thoughts and scheming and planning, which increase of wealth always brings with it, are strikingly described in this verse. The more acres a man has, the more cares. The more his money increases, the more of his time is generally consumed and eaten up in thinking about it."

- J. C. Ryle

B. The Rich Man's Decision (V18)

"Hoarding is an attempt to completely cover our material bases so that God becomes unnecessary. Rather than responsibly taking steps for future provision while trusting in God's sovereignty, we assert our own sovereignty by hoarding."

- Randy Alcorn

Proverbs 11:28 (NKJV) "He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage."

"When I hoard, I'm unwilling to part with what I've saved to meet other's needs, because my possible future needs outweigh their actual present needs. Hence, I fail to love my neighbor as myself. The difference between saving and hoarding isn't simply the amount, but the attitude. Nonetheless, there's a vast difference between saving five hundred dollars or a few thousand dollars for a 'rainy day' and saving a quarter of a million dollars that could last a rainy decade. Some lay up enough to survive a stormy century! In seeking to provide for our future needs, we should not neglect those who are currently needy. Our plenty will supply what they need (2 Corinthians 8:14)."

- Randy Alcorn

"Retirement planning so dominates the thinking of Christians who have sizable incomes that they overkill in this area enormously. The fear of doing without in the future causes many Christians to rob God's work of the very funds He has provided. These monies are tucked away in retirement accounts for twenty to forty years. God's Word does not prohibit but rather encourages saving for the future, including retirement (Proverbs 6:6-11; 21:20) but the example of the rich fool, given by the Lord in Luke 12:16-20, should be a clear direction that God's balance is 'when in doubt – give; don't hoard.'"

- Larry Burkett

C. The Rich Man's Desires (V19)

Luke 12:19 (NIV) "And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

D. The Rich Man's Death (V20)

Ecclesiastes 2:18-19 (NKJV) "¹⁸ Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also *is* vanity."

IV. The Application (V21)

James 4:13-14 (NKJV) "¹³ Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

"The less I spent on myself and the more I gave to others, the fuller of happiness and blessing did my soul become."

- Hudson Taylor

