

Text: Luke 16:19-31 part 2

Title: Money Problems

Main Idea

Many selfish, greedy people look like they are getting away with it. But, no matter how rich and powerful they are right now, at some point, they are going to die. When they do, they will be judged and money won't buy them any special privileges as they stand before God. The choices they make here and now will have eternal consequences then. Once the selfish, greedy person is judged, the suffering they will experience as a result can't compare to any amount of suffering a person might experience in this world. Knowing that reality should change us.

Key Points

- 1. The Parable's context** – Jesus has been giving his disciples pretty specific instruction about the way they handle money, and the Pharisees, who were listening, ridiculed his teaching because they were lovers of money and were using men's values to justify themselves.
- 2. Selfish and greed is a big deal even when it doesn't look like it** - There are many people out there who are not doing anything close to what the Bible says they should be doing with their money and are prospering financially. But you can't measure how wicked and dangerous sins like greed and selfishness are by how it looks like it is going for the greedy person right now.
- 3. There's more to this life than this life** - As you think about the value of obedience and doing what God says with your finances, you can't just look at what happens in the here and now.
- 4. Death is certain** - We are all going to die and the fact that we can't stop that should make a difference in how we think about all the stuff that is going on in our lives right now. When an unrepentant rich man dies all his hopes and dreams die and are buried with him.
- 5. Judgment is Final** – The rich man pleads for relief and for Lazarus to warn his family, but Abraham refuses, and demonstrates that his choices during his life would have consequences that last forever.
- 6. Hope for sinners** – The Pharisees problem was bigger than the fact they were greedy. It was that they were greedy and yet still didn't feel like they needed a Savior. God sent Jesus to die for greedy people who put their faith in Him, but to experience that forgiveness it is essential you know you need Him.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think people take the sin of greed very seriously? If not, why not?
2. What connection does this passage have with the rest of Luke 16? How does it fit?

3. Why should we never envy someone who is living in luxury and not trusting and obeying God and being generous with their resources?
4. Do you think it's easier for many people to feel compassion for someone who is suffering physically than it is for someone who is unrepentant and greedy. Why do you think that is?
5. How does the parable of the rich man and Lazarus illustrate the seriousness of disobedience, particularly in relation to wealth and generosity? What realities does it remind us of that should change the way we think about greed and selfishness?
6. What is the bigger problem than greed in this passage?
7. How do you think this passage might fit with what is happening in Luke 14 and 15?

Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.