

Pre-Sermon: This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Read Luke 12:13-21
- What is the question being asked, what is the warning given, and what is the story basically about?

Sermon Questions: These will help you evaluate how well you were listening.

- What is the theme of this passage?
- What was the main thing we were shown this past Sunday?
- What are some reasons it is so important for us to hear what Jesus says about money and possessions?
- What do we get in verse 13? How is this similar to what happens in 11:37,38? (This may be a hard question. You will really have needed to listen to get this one.)
- What is your initial impression of this man's question?
- How do we know what this man said to Jesus was the wrong thing to say?
- Why is this a big deal? What did the way he was thinking about money cause him to get wrong? What can we learn about this?
- What warning does Jesus give the disciples? How does this warning help us understand what the man was getting wrong in the way he was thinking about money?
- What is covetousness?
- What are some reasons in the Bible we have to guard ourselves against becoming greedy?
- What is the reason Jesus gives in this passage?

Sermon Outline:

1. There's an example of a person who is blinded by greed in verse 13 and 14.
2. This causes Jesus to give a warning in verse 15 to his disciples and an explanation of what we should learn from it.
3. And because that can be hard for us to believe in 16-21 he tells a story to demonstrate the point.

Sermon Synopsis: This is a short summary that will help you reflect on the message.

We are looking at Luke 12:13-21 and talking about money, material possessions and following Jesus. Specifically I want to show you a wrong and dangerous way that you are going to be tempted to think about money and material possessions that is also very normal.

First in verses 13 and 14, we get **an example** that illustrates there clearly is a wrong and dangerous way to think about money and material possessions. A man interrupts Jesus to ask him a question. This question is clearly a wrong question to ask Jesus at this moment. But honestly, for most of us, it doesn't seem all that bad at first. This man is just focused on what 99 percent of America would say is a totally appropriate thing to focus on.

So what's the problem? We have the illustration in verse 13 and 14. Something clearly can go wrong in the way we think about money. Then in verse 15 we get **an explanation**. I want to start by making clear it's not that Jesus thinks that it is wrong to be given an inheritance, or that Jesus would say, it was wrong for this man to want to work out this problem with his brother. Instead Jesus sees the man's timing and hears the man's tone and realizes it reveals that something more going on here which is that this man who, at this moment, is hearing about spiritual threats, and being cast into hell, and being denied by Jesus, is not concerned about these eternal issues because he's all worked up about getting, this piece of property he thinks he deserves. And it's like Jesus is saying. "Whoah. Wow. Seriously. Boys, disciples. This is why you have to be so incredibly careful, when it comes to the way you think about this whole issue of material possessions." it's so easy for you to get so wrapped up in this desire to have more and it's like this kind of wanting comes over

you, and almost takes over you, to the point that you actually lose focus and lose perspective about what life is even all about. That's called covetousness. And that's technically the wrong and dangerous way of thinking about money that we have to be on our guard against. This strong desire for money and material things is dangerous because it causes you to take these normal issues that are just part of life in this world, like getting an inheritance, or making money, or having a house or whatever and makes those issues feel so important and so urgent that they become the primary place you focus and you start acting like the most important and most vital thing in the whole world is making sure you are to get what you want for yourself right now. And it's something that Luke's concerned about really, all throughout his gospel. And in America, covetousness is so normal, which makes it a huge danger.

There's a lot of different reasons for guarding ourselves against becoming greedy. But the big reason Jesus is bringing up here in Luke chapter 12 is because it's foolish. And yet maybe because Jesus knows how hard it is for us to believe that, **in verses 16-21 we get a demonstration.** Jesus reinforces this warning he's giving with a story that demonstrates just how completely dumb it is to think this way about money. One of the things I love about this story is the fact, Jesus is bringing up someone he knew we would all pretty much envy. And yet, God calls him. "Fool." Why does God have such a different perspective on this man than most everyone we know would? It's because of the danger of covetousness, or greed. God's not blinded by greed. He sees clearly. This is a really wrong and dangerous way to think about money and material possessions, but, it doesn't always seem wrong and dangerous because we are living in this world that has been blinded by greed to the point where they can't even see what's most obvious which is that, this man, and all of us, are accountable to God.

Living with this kind of focus on money may seem normal, but it's foolish, because our life here is going to come to an end, and then we'll stand before God. You can get so focused on material things that can't save you, that you waste your life right now and have no relationship with the only one who can. You may come to him, you may say the right things about him, but you don't know Him. And that's really sad, because you are accountable to Him, you are going to stand before Him, and what then? All these things you worked for, what good will they do you then?

Be careful. There's a way of thinking about money and material possessions that's really dumb. This passage gives us one example. Here's this person so focused on his inheritance that he doesn't even think about his soul. There's a lot of people like that. We have to be really careful, we are not like that.

Why? The problem is not things. Things can be really helpful if you are generous and unselfish. The problem is that even as Christians, we still can be covetous. And we're living in a world where covetousness is a way of life. Whatever you do, don't be money dumb! That starts by looking at the way you are thinking about your life and looking at where you are putting your focus. Which takes humility. You may need help. Greed is a blinding sin. But maybe you can begin by asking are you actually on guard against covetousness?

Application Questions: These are some questions that may help put the message into practice.

- How were you impacted by this passage?
- What are some questions that you have as you think about it?
- What are some normal ways of thinking about money that are clearly examples of someone putting their focus in the wrong place?
- What is a warning sign that someone has the wrong focus when it comes to money?
- How do you think covetousness has become normal in our society?
- What are some examples of ways people make money a god?
- How can you identify greed in your own life? Let's make a list of questions:
 - What do you think about more - your finances or God?
 - Do you want more than you need?

- Which are you working harder for, obtaining material possessions or growing in godliness?
- Do you worry about your financial condition?
- Do you compare yourself with others and are upset if you have less than they do?
- Which sounds worse to you - being poor or sinning?
- What do you talk about more, material things or God?
- What do you want most for your children, a secure financial future or godliness?
Which are you working harder to help them achieve?
- How do you need to repent as a result of this message?
- What does the gospel have to do with greed?
- How did this message help you enjoy the gospel?