

Legacies

Luke 12:13-21

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

¹⁴Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

¹⁶And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

¹⁸"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '

²⁰"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

²¹"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Sermon Outline

- I. The Ways We Spend our Money
 - a. Spend
 - i. Becomes a problem with the undisciplined pursuit of more.
 - ii. It's not money that we worship, but the feeling money gives to us
 1. Status
 2. Power
 3. Comfort
 - b. Save (before we spend)
 - i. Proverbs 21:20, 24:3-4
 - ii. Saving can go Wrong when it's self-centered
 1. Security in money vs. Security in God
 - c. Give (the remedy for self-centered spending and saving)
 - i. Ecclesiastes
 1. God has set eternity into our hearts
 - ii. Leaving legacies with our money that last beyond us.
- II. Guidelines for Giving
 - a. Planned Giving
 - i. Electronic Fund Transfers
 - b. Priority Giving
 - i. Local Church (1 Timothy 5, Phil 4)
 - ii. Poor (Matt 25, James 1:27)
 - c. Percentage Giving
 - i. Roughly 30% in the Old Testament
 - ii. Extravagant Giving in the New Testament
 - iii. Tithe - 10% - a good starting point

Small Group Questions

1. What thoughts, feelings or questions do you have after reading this passage or hearing this sermon?

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2. Why do we all need to “be on your guard against all kinds of greed”? Does this matter if one is rich or poor? Explain.

3. Do you believe it’s true that most people don’t see themselves as greedy? How do you guard against greed?

4. Do you believe in the principle of saving before spending? What are some easy ways to do this?

5. This parable talks about saving gone wrong – what’s the main issue that Jesus is trying to bring out?

6. Do you believe in the principle of “Give-Save-Spend” (in that order)? If yes, what are some practical ways to use our money in this order?

7. If someone were to look at your checkbook or bank account, how would they describe the order in which you use your money?

8. Do you think it’s helpful to plan your giving? Why or why not?

9. Do you prioritize your giving? Why or why not?

10. Do you plan a percentage of your income to give away? Do you believe it is important to do so?

11. Come up with a giving plan on your own, and then share it with the small group.
e.g. I want to Give __%, Save __%, and Spend __%. I want to give primarily to _____.

12. Share some of the challenges that you believe most people face in being generous, and close the time with prayer requests.