

THE GENEROSITY PARADOX

Lesson Three • Luke 12:13-21

The Hazard of Greed

The Generosity Paradox

By giving we RECEIVE; by grasping we LOSE.

The Hazard of Greed

1. Notice the Selfish REQUEST Made by a Brother!

Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?"
Luke 12:13-14

2. Heed the Sober WARNING Given by Jesus!

And He said to them, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." Luke 12:15

The Lies of Greed

Having more money and things will make me more HAPPY and SECURE.

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. Ecclesiastes 5:10 NIV

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. 1Timothy 6:18-19 ESV

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1Timothy 6:9-10 NIV

The Truth about Greed

You can be RICH materially and still be POOR spiritually because life does not consist in having things but in knowing God.

"...for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." Luke 12:15

"Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent." John 17:3 NIV

3. Hear the Solemn PARABLE Told to the Crowd!

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" Luke 15:16-19

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'" Luke 15:20

Why Is This Rich Man Called a Fool?

Because he did not KNOW God.

But God said to him, 'You fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'" Luke 15:20

4. Apply Jesus' POINT to Your Life!

The Point of the Parable

Don't be a FOOL. Don't be the kind of fool who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

"So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." Luke 15:21

Three Ways to Guard Against the Hazard of Greed

- VALUE supremely Jesus above all earthly things.
- TRUST completely in God's promises to meet all your needs.
- GIVE generously to support the mission and ministry of God's church.