

Pastor Glen Keefe  
Shelton First Baptist  
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## Building Barns

Luke 12:13-21

Luke 12 this morning...Jesus engages a man with a question. The context of this question is simply bizarre in that it is out of nowhere completely random...and yet Jesus engages it. Let me set the stage of chapter 12. There is, according to verse one, thousands upon thousands of people gathered to see Jesus. The crowd is so big they are trampling each other so Jesus engages them and begins to teach. He teaches them about:

- The dangers of religion and how it hides the heart
- Their need to fear God who longs to care for all our needs
- That He, Jesus is the bridge back to God
- And...He teaches them about the Holy Spirit

You've got to get this scene into your mind's eye in order to see how bizarre this question that's coming really is. Verse 13:

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

**PRAY (Help us to look at how we live our lives in view of what the Scriptures say. At times Lord your word drags us into conviction and even torment because of our fleshly resistance to you. This morning help our hearts to allow you God...to be God).**

***"Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."*** Jesus is teaching kingdom principals and this guy says, "Huh...Jesus? Tell him to share his money with me."

Now...if we're honest we'd all have to admit...we've been there. Jesus has all these amazing things to offer...to teach...and we're over here focused on bizarre stuff.

### **Our Move**

Several months ago God was speaking to my wife and I about my dad coming to live with us and things just started moving. Long story short we've moved from this beautiful vision from God to have my dad come live with us into the practical terror of moving.

- Can't find things we need
- Things breaking (Older House)

Life has a way, doesn't it? Of shifting us away from the important big picture of Jesus into the tunnel vision of the little issue that carry no eternal significance...whatever that issue is. Have you been there?

This guy comes up, totally tunnel visioned on money, and says to Jesus, **"Some of that money is mine Jesus – tell my brother to share."** Jesus' response to this man is verse 14:

**(OVERHEAD)**

***"Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"***

Jesus knew this wasn't a problem centered in unfair division of the inheritance, but a problem of 'greed'. So Jesus didn't bite...He didn't go after the tunnel vision problem because He knew that was a symptom of a deeper issues...the issue of the heart.

Jesus' teachings drew thousands because it was so different. One of the significant ways it was different was how it centered on the condition of the heart. In Mark 7 Jesus said (vs. 20):

**(OVERHEAD)**

***"What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup>greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.***

And in this situation Jesus saw the symptom of the heart as **'Greed'**. So he took it on. I don't believe that Jesus had a problem with a man having possessions or even being wealthy. Jesus was concerned with Man's Heart...where is your heart?

Jesus took the moment to teach them how a critical kingdom principal. He said in verse 15:

**(OVERHEAD)**

***"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."***

I get this image of the Creator of all things...God who out of love within His triune nature created us in His image for His joy and His glory. God spoke the universe into creation. And in its brilliant display (Which Science can't find the end of...BTW) it functions in perfect balance...in total synch with its Creator.

And here is the Creator, of all, in the flesh telling you and I how to live in harmony with Him. And in this case we're being told how it doesn't work...He designed it and created it. He knows where joy and beauty can be found...and how it will never be found in cars, houses, bank

accounts, technology, clothing – whatever. Because the moment we find joy there...we're out of unity with Jesus. Our hearts have turned.

The joy of life is only found when we are in synch with God the creator through relationship with Jesus Christ. Our hearts have to be His. The Creator came in the flesh and said... "**Life doesn't work that way.**" Greed will kill your heart. And Jesus goes on to teach a parable. By the way, before we get into this parable let me say a couple things about Jesus' teachings around money.

- Jesus talked about money more than He did Heaven & Hell combined
- The only thing Jesus talked about more was the 'Kingdom of God'
- 11 of 39 parables talked about money
- 1 of every 7 verses in Luke's Gospel talk about money
- Primary qualification of an Overseer **'Not a lover of Money'**

God knew we'd be vulnerable in this area. When our hearts get knotted up in this area of greed and possessions it kills relationship with God. So Jesus tells them a parable beginning in verse 16:

**(OVERHEAD)**

*"The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.'"<sup>20</sup> 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?' <sup>21</sup> This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."*

Bigger Barns? I doubt anyone here has this problem because we just don't build bigger barns. I Googled personal storage for Olympia the other day and found over 20 storage units just in the city of Oly. If you were to do the greater Seattle area I'm sure it would be well over a thousand.

Jesus told a story of a man who in today's culture would more than likely be looking for a storage unit. Like so many in today's culture, he was out of synch with Creator God. And God's word drags all of us...willingly or not...to the Creator's truth, "**Life doesn't work that way**". Greed & security in possessions is wrong. I want to quickly look at three 'Wrong's' with greed as seen in this parable. First:

**(OVERHEAD)**

### **I. Wrong Preparation**

When our hearts are busy pursuing the comforts of this life rather than pursuing God then we have 'Wrong Preparation'.

The farmer wanted to BUILD BIGGER BARNS, but God brought in a new perspective. The farmer didn't even live to BUILD BIGGER BARNS yet alone enjoy what was in them. He put all his focus into preparing for the comforts of this life and completely ignored preparation for eternal life.

Jesus wants us to see things in the right perspective. He told those around Him: "**Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**" (vs.15)

Matthew 6:33 says: **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** You were created to pursue a relationship with God first...riches will never satisfy your soul. Jesus is so determined in this that he called this guy a fool. He was physically wealthy but bankrupt with God. Next Wrong...

(OVERHEAD)

I. Wrong Preparation

II. Wrong Intention

Verse 19:

(OVERHEAD)

**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."**

Charles Spurgeon said:

(OVERHEAD)

**There are 2 sins of a man that are bred in the bone: one is self-dependence and the other is self-exultation—Spurgeon**

The real issue here is not your possession (rich or poor), the issue here is your focus...your intention. Paul told Timothy in I Tim. 6:17...**"Tell those who are rich not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone, but their pride and trust should be in the living God who always richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment."** Verse 18 goes on to say:

(OVERHEAD)

**Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.**

Why do you think our country is in such financial turmoil? God blesses us with resources in order that we can give sacrificially to the Kingdom.

**Illustration:** A pastor stood before his church and said, "I've got some good news and some bad news. The good news is that the church has all the money it needs... The bad news is that it's all still in your wallets."

**(OVERHEAD)**

**I. Wrong Preparation**

**II. Wrong Intention**

**III. Wrong Vision**

This man's vision had the assumption that he would be around to enjoy his wealth – not knowing that that night would be his last. James 4:13-14 says;

**(OVERHEAD)**

***Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." <sup>14</sup>Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.***

Most of us don't realize that we are just one breath away, one heartbeat away, or one accident away from eternity. No one is ever prepared for that moment until they have made peace with God...

Mark 8:36 – ***"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"***