

March 6, 2005  
Shepherd's Community Church  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Luke 12:13-21

“Growing in Your Relationship with Other Believers: *Stewardship*”

“**Stewardship**” = “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.”

- See Discipleship II notebook for details regarding the stewardship of time, talents, possessions, money, words...

What would keep us from being good stewards of all that the Lord has entrusted to us? What would hinder us from living for and investing in eternity? What would paralyze us and keep us from running the race of faith to win?

**I. The Problem – Luke 12:13-15a**

**A. Man’s Perspective – v. 13**

- Rabbis were expected to help settle legal matters (Num. 27:1-11; Deut. 21:15-17)

**B. God’s Perspective – v. 14-15a**

- Jesus refused to get involved in the inheritance issue. Why?
- “**Beware...be on your guard**”
- “**Greed**” = “an unquenchable thirst for getting more and more of something we think we need in order to be truly satisfied.” (Warren Wiersbe)
  - Mark 7:22; Rom. 1:29; 2 Cor. 9:5; Eph. 4:19; 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 2:5; 2 Pet. 2:3, 14
- “**Every form of**” = it comes in many forms
  - lit., “Continually beware of and guard yourself AWAY FROM all greed”
- Greed (covetousness) seen two common ways:
  - 1) Spend Money = PLEASURE (root = lust / greed)
  - 2) Store Money = SECURITY (root = fear / anxiety)

## II. The Principle – v. 15b

- **“for NOT EVEN when one has an abundance”**
- **“life”** = the life (internal; soulish)
- **“possessions”** = to be in existence OR “to belong to”
- Life doesn’t consist of the things you \_\_\_\_\_ right now
- Life doesn’t consist of the things you \_\_\_\_\_ right now

## III. The Parable – v. 16-21 (Parable = “to cast alongside.” A story told to drive the main point home)

### A. Man’s Perspective – v. 16-19

- The world would admire a lot of things about this man: rich, industrious, progressive...
- **“he began reasoning to himself”** = man’s perspective / wisdom
- **“no place to store my crops”** = TRUE?
- How do we react to this man’s dilemma?
- **“tear down my barns and build bigger ones...store all my grain and my goods”**
- **“SOUL”** = the DEEPEST ASPECT of who he is
- **“many goods laid up for many years to come”**
- **“Take your ease, eat, drink & be merry...”**
- Perils to prosperity:
  - Wealth can choke the Word of God (Mt. 13:22)
  - Can create snares and temptations (1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19)
  - Can give us a false sense of security (Lk. 12)
- Is the farmer “successful?” Has he arrived at the good life? Does he have satisfaction and security?
- **“People who are satisfied only with the things that money can buy are in great danger of losing the things that money cannot buy.”**

## B. God's Perspective – v. 20-21

- “fool” = without reason; senseless; foolish; expressing a reckless and inconsiderate habit of mind
- How can this be? It sounded very reasonable! It sounded very AMERICAN!
- **“This very night your SOUL is required of you and now who will own what you have prepared?”**

- 1) The rich fool was foolish in failing to recognize where his wealth had come from.
  - 2) The rich fool was foolish in his understanding of the \_\_\_\_\_ of wealth.
  - 3) The rich fool was foolish in that he saw his possessions as his \_\_\_\_\_ and as the basis for his ceasing to be productive.
  - 4) The rich fool was foolish in his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 5) The rich fool was foolish in holding a view of the future which was short-sighted and which \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of God.
  - 6) The rich man was a fool both in the way he \_\_\_\_\_ life and in the way he thought life was to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- How do we respond to the death of the farmer?

**CONCLUSION:** How does this relate to STEWARDSHIP?

- **What is the solution?**
  - Lay up treasures in heaven
  - Be rich toward God = to acknowledge gratefully that everything we have comes from God, and then make an effort to use what He gives us for the good of others and the glory of God.

**APPLICATION:**

1) **To the brothers =**

2) **To the disciples =** don't let GREED get in the way of living for the kingdom

**3) To us =**

- How do we know if we are GREEDY? 1 Tim. 6:6-8
  
- What happens when we LOVE MONEY? 1 Tim. 6:9-10
  
- What should we do? (1 Tim. 6:17, 19; Heb. 13:5-6)
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ God rather than money!
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ what we have with others!
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_ our riches in heaven!
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_ that God will never leave us nor forsake us!
  - 5) Be \_\_\_\_\_ with what we have (food & clothing)
  - 6) \_\_\_\_\_ for God's Kingdom no matter what!