

Rich Toward God

Luke 12: 13-21

Introduction: Last week Brian gave the first of a three sermon series on money, a topic that can be difficult to talk about but is also a basic area of discipleship, just like sharing our faith, reading Scripture, serving others, etc. Through teaching, discussion, and prayer, we hope to become more generous people in all these areas, just like our Savior is generous. This week we are discussing a parable that helps us avoid greed and learn how to live a life that is rich toward God.

Opening Question: In the Tolstoy fable Steve shared, how would the story look different if Pakhom had been free of greed?

Read Luke 12:13-21

1. What are some ways we can “watch out” and be on guard against greed in our life?
2. Tell about some “kinds” of greed you’ve noticed showing up in yourself and the world.
3. In the movie Wall Street, Gordon Gekko says the famous line “Greed is good.” Is he right? Why or why not?

Steve said:

Jesus actually has this man articulate a common version of the “American Dream.” This is often put forth as the goal of life: accumulate so much that you have enough for years and years to come. Accumulate so much that you no longer have to work; you don’t have to worry about money; you don’t even have to trust God. The man in the parable has attained this goal; he is “set” financially and materially.

4. In light of the above statement, what is good about the Dream? What is unhealthy about it?

5. From Luke 12:22-34, what are some characteristics of the person who is “rich toward God”?

Steve said:

Like Brian mentioned last week, it's more about an attitude than an amount. No matter whether you have a lot or a little in terms of money and resources, you can store up fantastic wealth in heaven. Jesus says that it's a matter of the heart (which is the command and control center of our lives; we live from the heart): For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

6. In light of this, do you feel your heart is settled on the question of “Do I honestly want to be rich toward God in relation to money and possessions?” What barriers/history might be keeping you from considering this?
7. What are some things money represents to you? [possibilities include power, fun, security, freedom...]
8. Do you have trouble enjoying the things God has richly given you? (See 1 Timothy 6:17 and Ecclesiastes 3: 12-13; Could this be a “greed antidote” or not?)
9. What would you advise a friend who wanted to start looking at “how much is enough” as far as their savings and lifestyle?