

Protection From Greed

"Someone 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; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." ¹⁶And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 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 my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain 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 whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:13-21

The good news is – "you are rich."

The bad news is – "you are rich."

Being blessed with much provides us with two choices...

1. We can become proud people...ungrateful and thankless.
2. We can seize the opportunity and become more humble, more grateful and more thankful.

Thanksgiving Test

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" Luke 16:10-11

We fail the test when more is always for me.

Thanksgiving Stuffers:

1. We have no **margin**

"The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down." Proverbs 21:20

2. We are too easily **offended**

John 8:1-11

Luke 5:27-32

Luke 7:36-50

3. We lack Kingdom **perspective**

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" Matthew 25:21

Small Group Questions

1. Read Luke 12:13-21. Did studying this passage reveal something 'new' or 'different' to you...maybe something you had not seen before? Share.
2. Currently, do you have more margin in your budget or more margin in your schedule? (Neither is not an acceptable response!)
 - React to the following three statements Scott made in his sermon:
 - "You must go and create margin, then ask God to use it."
 - "God can better use people with margin."
 - "Money is seeking worshippers and servants. God is seeking worshippers and servants."
3. Do you have an 'Aunt Elsie' in your life, (someone who takes offense to everything)? Do you consider yourself 'easily offended'? When was the last time you were truly offended? What happened?
 - In general, have you been offended more by Christians or non-Christians?
 - Agree or disagree: Jesus was not easily offended.
4. The final verse from today's text read; *"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*
 - How can you go about being 'rich toward God' this holiday season?