

unCERTAINty – Surviving this Economic Storm
Real Contentment
April 4 & 5, 2009

Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.” Luke chapter 12 verse 13 (795)

↳ Be real with God because He already knows my heart

- Sometimes my desire for “fairness” is nothing more than selfishness or greed
- Sometimes my “good” questions cover-up my bad attitudes & desires
- It’s OK to ask God questions! (*the Bible’s full of them!*)
- God loves it when I’m honest with Him
- God prefers honesty to religious phoniness

Jesus replied, “Friend, who made Me a judge over you to decide such things as that?”

Luke chapter 12 verse 14 (795)

↳ Jesus was super-clear about His mission on earth!

- Jesus had lots of opportunity to “diversify” and dabble in all sorts of good earthy ventures
- But He clearly understood His mission and stuck to it!
- What was Jesus’ mission on earth? To seek & save the lost! (*Luke chapter 19 verse 10*)
- What’s our mission? The same! We have to keep the main thing the main thing!
- ***God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him. ...So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” 2 Corinthians chapter 5 verses 18 & 20 (884)***

Then Jesus said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.” Luke chapter 12 verse 15 (795)

↳ Jesus knows that greed can easily get us all off-mission!

- Jesus understood the power that “stuff” holds in my life...the desire for “stuff,” “more stuff” and “better stuff”
- Greed works hand-in-hand with money in being God’s biggest competition for my heart (*refer to last weekend’s talk*)
- Sadly, many believe the lie that life is all about “stuff” or “getting stuff”

A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, “What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.” Then he said, “I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I’ll sit back and say to myself, ‘My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!’” Luke chapter 12 verses 16 - 19 (795)

- The Bible DOES NOT condemn wealth or says it’s wrong to be rich
- The Bible DOES condemn the love of money (*see 1 Timothy chapter 6 verse 10*)
- Why does God prosper me? So I could get more stuff or better stuff? Or so I could give more & bless others more??
- What would I do if God prospered me financially? Would I accumulate more or better “stuff” or use my new wealth to be more of a blessing to others?

- “It’s not a sin to be rich. It’s a sin to die rich.” -- *Shane Claiborne, speaking at Bethel, October 2008*
- Maybe God doesn’t bless us with more because He doesn’t trust us with more

But God said to him, “You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?” Luke chapter 12 verse 20 (795)

↳ Contentment can never be found in “stuff,” because when I die I take no “stuff” with me!

- Jesus reminds us that life is not about “stuff” or accumulating “stuff”
- Because when I die, I stand before God (*with none of my “stuff!”*) and give an account of our lives

Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.

Luke chapter 12 verse 21 (795)

What’s the point of Jesus’ story??

- \$\$ is a blessing of God in our lives
- We need to be wise with our \$\$ because we’ll stand before God to give account for it
- One day every single one of us will stand before God & give full account of our lives & the way we spent / invested them
- We all need to be careful of greed in our lives...because it distracts us from our real mission of bringing others to Jesus

Remember our mission: bringing others to Jesus

- A great way to do this is to invite others to Easter services with you
- Invite people:
 - Intentionally - God already has them on your mind, invite them
 - Spontaneously - their names will pop into your mind between now & Easter. Invite them
 - “Accidentally” - God happens to put you together with this person and it was unplanned. Invite them

Next weekend: Easter Services - Remember to invite lots of friends to our Easter weekend services. We’ll have 4 services on Easter weekend:

- Saturday evening at 6 pm
- Sunday at 9 am, 10:30 am & 12 noon