

Lk 12: ¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He 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. ¹⁹ And 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.”

1) Jesus doesn't condemn riches or rich people.

- He does give a significant warning about our attitudes
- *Vs 15 "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed"*
- Joseph of Arimathea *Mt 27:57* was rich
- *1Tim 6:¹⁷ "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.
¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."*

Ability to get wealth is a Gift from God

- needs to be handled responsibly.
- ***Dt8: ¹⁷ “You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” ¹⁸ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”***

2) Many warnings in Scripture about Greed & Selfishness.

- ***Vs 20 “FOOL” – GRK = without reason, reckless and inconsiderate***
- ***vs15 “be on your guard”***
- ***Kings of Israel Dt 17: ¹⁶ ““The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself.... ¹⁷ He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.”***
- ***Jesus Mk 8:36 “What will it profit a man to gain the whole world, but lose his soul?”***
- ***Mt 19:24 “it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”***
- ***Mt 7: ²¹ For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed.”***

- Sodom destroyed Ez 16:⁴⁹ “ ‘Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.’”
- Israel Judged Is 57:¹⁷” I was enraged by their sinful greed; I punished them, and hid my face in anger.”
- Paul Eph 5:³ “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.”
- Col 3:⁵ “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.
⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.”
- Rich Man & Lazarus – riches stripped him of his dignity, dulled his sense of moral justice, destroyed his opportunity for meaningful relationship with God – ultimately cast him into hell fire.

3) How to break the power of Greed.

1) Surrender all to Christ – everything including financial

- It all belongs to God – we are only stewards –

- *Ps 24:1 “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”*

2) Tithe Mal 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

- If you aren’t tithing already this is a good place to begin your journey

- Step of Faith or Trust in God

- Command “Bring” – Invitation “Test” God on this issue – Promise Blessing.

3) Practice generosity on every occasion.

- invest in people, not things

- *Mt 6: ¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

- Randy Alcorn "I've heard people say, "I want more of a heart for missions." I always respond, "Jesus tells you exactly how to get it. Put your money in missions - in your church - the poor - and your heart will follow."

Guidelines for life.

1. Earn much
2. Consume little.
3. Hoard nothing
4. Give generously
5. Celebrate life

Billy Graham - "If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life."

Jesus our example to Follow

- 2Cor 8: 9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."