

Too Comfortable? Week 8

Sermon date 3/19/2017

QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

The Goal

Last week Pastor Craig began to unpack the idea of treasure and asked the question, "What's in our hands?" This week we will be diving a little deeper into this principle. The Goal of this study is to help us understand God's design for money in our lives and how He plans for us to be free. This week will challenge some attitudes towards money and how God's design is different than the world's.

MY STORY

- 2) What theme or idea has God been speaking to you about personally throughout this study?
- 3) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 4) From last week's study, did you do something different with your treasure?

DIGGING DEEPER

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me."

¹⁴ Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?" ¹⁵ Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

¹⁶ Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. ¹⁷ He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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!"'

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ ²¹ “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”ⁱ

From The New American Commentary

Luke next introduced an account unique to his Gospel (cf. however GT 63, 72). A question from the crowd (Luke 12:13) ties this passage to the preceding one and leads to Jesus’ teaching regarding possessions, and in particular on inheritance rights. Jesus rejected the role of arbiter between brothers. He did not come to reconcile such family disputes. On the contrary, his coming would at times divide families (12:51–53). What this individual needed was not some casuistic legal ruling by a religious teacher but a basic understanding of how possessions relate to the purpose of life. Who one is is far more important than what one possesses. The latter is outside a person; the former is within (11:37–54). Jesus also opposed the request because it arose from greed (11:39). Greed is to be rejected, for the meaning and purpose of life is not found in the accumulation of wealth and possessions (12:15; cf. 1 Tim 6:6–10).ⁱ

- 5) When a person from the crowd asks Jesus to divide the inheritance, how does Jesus respond?
- 6) What does Jesus warn the crowd against?
- 7) What does greed mean, and are there different forms of it?

Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary defines greed as:
a selfish and excessive desire for more of something (as money) than is needed.ⁱⁱ

- 8) Jesus uses a parable to illustrate His point about greed. From the parable, what is the attitude of the rich man?
- 9) Who is Jesus saying we should be rich towards?
- 10) Over several of the past studies we have talked about attitudes of the heart. Greed is another one of the attitudes we wrestle with. What are some principles or thoughts we have discussed about attitudes of the heart?

TAKING IT HOME

Luke 12:22-26

²² Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. ²⁴ Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! ²⁵ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? ²⁶ And if worry can’t accomplish a little thing like that, what’s the use of worrying over bigger things?”ⁱⁱⁱ

11) From the passage above, what is the main thing Jesus tells us not to do?

Two weeks ago Pastor Craig challenged us with this statistic: three out of four people do not balance their check book. This means 75% of people do not know how much they bring in and how much they spend.

12) Would knowing and having a budget help prevent worry about our finances? If so, how?

Pastor Craig also gave us the outline below as a guide for our finances.

Treasure as a multi-tool:

- Fund the care of me and my family's present: 70-80%.
- Fund the care of me and my family's future: 10-20%.
- Fund God's mission through His local church: 10%+.

13) What are some of the things that prevent Christians from following these guidelines?

14) Where can we start if we are not currently following these principles?

15) This week Pastor's main point was this: how I manage my finances creates a path towards funding the life I want to live at the side of Christ. How does God's plan set us free?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

As we draw to the end of this study, we have done the work to write a personal vision statement. If you have done the work offered in the Chair Time tools of the study, you should be at this point: first, you have determined your foundation to be the Word of God; second, you have examined yourself and surrendered the areas you are too comfortable in; third, you have written Biblical values you want to live by; fourth, you have examined painful experiences in your life, as well as positive experiences, that can be used by God.

This week we will consider the final questions before we put it all together.

16) Take into consideration all the past weeks. They should begin to paint a picture of who God is shaping you to be. Then ask this question: What are you passionate about? What do you love doing that impacts the Kingdom of God?

ⁱ Robert H. Stein, [Luke](#), vol. 24, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 350–351.

ⁱⁱ Inc Merriam-Webster, [Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary](#). (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

ⁱⁱⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Lk 12:13–26.