

WHAT'S WORTH WANTING?

Luke 12:13-21

I. THE PERIL OF POSSESSIONS

- A. *"Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."* (12:15)
- B. A Self Service Mentality.
 - 1. The problem was not his possessions. It was his self-serving attitude: *"my barns ... my grain ... my goods ... my soul."*
 - 2. "Our culture has become a vast supermarket where we are trained in desire ... Not knowing what there is that's worth wanting, we become pliable victims of advertising's training in want of everything." (William Willimon)
 - 3. In our worship services, the Offering is the part we like the least because we see in that moment that our foolishness is not just in our greed, but in our lives.
- C. Beware of All Covetousness.
 - 1. Covetousness is a violation of God's law. It's breaking the 10th commandment.
 - 2. Someone has defined covetousness as "wanting more of what you already have enough of."

II. WAS IT WORTH IT?

- A. *"Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"* (12:20)
- B. A Bad Case of Affluenza.
 - 1. Someone said: "Never before has so much meant so little to so many."
 - 2. "Money is like seawater; the more you drink, the thirstier you get."
(Roman Proverb)
- C. Possessions Can Be Deadly.
 - 1. A pastor commented: "I've seen dozens of marriages ruined by nothing more than greed – working too many hours, buying too much, getting too deep in debt."
 - 2. *"What does it profit a man if he gains the world and loses or forfeits himself?"* (9:25)
- D. Be Rich Toward God.
 - 1. True joy doesn't come from an entertainment center, a computer, a car or a house.
 - 2. *"As you did it to one of the least of these by brethren, you did it to me."* (Mt. 25:40)
 - 3. True joy is not found in building bigger barns, but in building better relationships.

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Steve Bryant, J.W. Davis, Marie Davis, Leona Evans, Irene Kiefer, James Lee, Fay McDowell, Carolyn Perkins, Annie Sanko, Carol Webb ... **Friends** – Melinda Banks, Bobby Borden, Pat Bryan, Alma Jo Churchill, Deborah Criswell, Doyle Davis, Fontelle Dunaway, John Fumbanks, Jere Gifford, Joanna Grathwell, Gary Hinson, Branden Hurst, Betty Murray, Linda Petrie, Violet Stout, Mike Thompson, Steven Wachtler, Owen Walker, Durward Webb, Janet Willis ...

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Eddie Owens** who died on Thursday, September 6, and to **Greg Moore** and family in the loss of his brother-in-law, **Jack Houston**, who died on Sunday, September 9.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Eternal God, a day that begins with worship ought to be one in which we find ways to cleanse ourselves, to let some of the impurities of life be washed away, and to find, even momentarily, a purity of heart that allows us to see You. We need to feel clean and pure again, so here in worship, let your forgiveness and grace cleanses us today.

O God, a day which begins in your presence ought to be one in which we see new light in some specific way. Maybe worship is the place we will see it, or perhaps in quiet devotion. Let your light illumine our lives, even the dark corners we keep closed, and let us see.

Father, a day which begins with praise and worship ought to be a day when we hear your voice loudly and clearly. We keep the noise of life going continually, perhaps so we won't hear your voice. But your word reminds us that you have something to say to us, and that you will say it, and we need to hear it. Then let us be quiet long enough to hear you speak to us.

Father, any day which begins with You ought to be lived to the fullest. Help us to do that today, we pray in the name of Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LUKE 12:13-21

One of the multitude said to him, "Teacher, bid my brother divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or divider over you?" And he said to them, "Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this; I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

September 23	<i>True North Principles</i>	Luke 12:32-40
September 30	<i>Don't Quench the Fire</i>	Luke 12:49-56
October 7	<i>Everyone's Invited</i> Worldwide Communion	Luke 14:1, 7-14
October 14	<i>Counting the Cost</i>	Luke 14:25-33

On the Radio (1450 AM):

September 23	<i>Dreamer in the Pit</i>	Genesis 37
September 30	<i>Just Say No</i>	Genesis 39
October 7	<i>Learning How to Wait</i>	Genesis 40