

Parables: Small Stories – Big Truths

“Living for Eternity”

Luke 12:13-40

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / July 17, 2016

If you dig into the parables of Jesus, you will see that 11 of the 39 deal with MONEY. That means 28% of the time when Jesus WENT PARABLE on us, it had to do with money.

ONE BIG TRUTH: If you live your life and handle your money as if this world has a ceiling or there is NO ETERNITY beyond all of this – then God calls you a FOOL!

I. Money is Dangerous – So You Better Be Careful about How Much of it You Choose To Hang On To

Luke 12:15 (ESV) “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness...”

Ephesians 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."

Notice two things God puts together in that one verse - sexual sin and greed! Paul uses the Greek words 'Porneia', from which we get our word 'pornography' and 'Pleonexia', which means 'the annexing of more.'

“What if He returned while you are watching a porn site's 'live show'? Wouldn't you be ashamed?

But suppose He found us not at a porn show, but at a fashion show. Suppose He found us in an atmosphere of materialism, greed, and snobbery. Is this a better theater? Are these more godly lusts? Even though the clothes are on instead of off, is the whole show much less obscene?

Pleonexia is the "annexing of more." If I have a DVD player, and 80 DVD's, but keep hankering for more, insatiably for more and more and then for still more - I'm a moral clown as a Christian... The same is true for land, cash, jewelry, and motorized toys for grown-ups. The problem is that our society thinks pleonexia is just fine. Products trigger it. Advertising assumes it. Our whole economy depends on it.” **Beyond Doubt**, Cornelius Plantinga, p. 228-229

II. Money is Deceptive – So You Better Think about it Out Loud in Front of Other People You Trust

Don't talk about your money to everybody, everywhere, but DO break out of this concept that we don't talk to anybody else about our money.

Luke 12:17 “And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do...?’”

Matt. 6:1-4 is NOT meant to be used as a smoke screen so that nobody can ask each other how they're doing in the area of giving.

"It's increasingly common for Christians to ask one another the tough questions: How is your marriage? Have you been spending time in the Word? How are you doing in terms of sexual purity? Have you been sharing your faith? But how often do we ask, 'How much are you giving to the Lord?' or 'Have you been robbing God?' or 'Are you winning the battle against materialism?'

When it comes to giving, churches operate under a 'don't ask, don't tell' policy... It's as if we have an unspoken agreement: 'I won't talk about it if you won't, so we can go right on living as we are.' ***The Treasure Principle***, Randy Alcorn, p. 81-82

III. Money is Powerless to Help You with What Matters Most – So You Better Keep Things in Perspective

Luke 12:20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’”

You can make a lot of mistakes in life and still survive, but it's a FATAL miscalculation to live like this life is all there is.

I Peter 2:11 “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.”

The Greek word used here is ‘epithumia’, meaning a desire so strong that it MOTIVATES behavior.

IV. Money is Always Tied to Your Heart – So You Better Think About Where It's All Going

The Bible is clear that the direction your money is going **NOW** is where your HEART will be pointed **SOON**. Heart follows money every time.

Luke 12:34 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Notice the verbs...where your treasure IS...your heart WILL BE.

“Suppose you buy shares of General Motors. What happens? You suddenly develop interest in GM. You check the financial pages. You see a magazine article about GM and read every word, even though a month ago you would have passed right over it. As surely as the compass needle follows north, your heart will follow your treasure.

Do you wish you cared more about eternal things? Then reallocate some of your money, maybe most of your money, from temporal things to eternal things. Watch what happens.”

The Treasure Principle, Randy Alcorn, p. 42-43

V. **Any Money You Ever Get is Not Your Own – So You Better Get Ready for a Day of Reckoning**

Jesus uses the words ‘Master’, ‘Servant’ or ‘Steward’ 13x in **v. 35-48**, which is a stark contrast to rich fool’s 6 ‘I’s and 5 ‘my’s found in **v.17-19**.

Jesus wants to SHAKE us to remember that the money that comes through your hands is NOT yours. It’s God’s – and so that means you will give an account for ALL of it.

Notice the sense of expectation and accountability you see in **v. 35-40**.

Conclusion

Five minutes after you die, you’re will know exactly how you wish you’d lived and how you wish you’d handled your money!

NEXT STEPS:

1. Read some more about it – **‘Treasure Principle’** by Randy Alcorn.
2. Watch announcements for our next **Financial Peace University** Class and sign up.
3. Set up automatic giving – Through an Electronic Fund Transfer from your bank, or go to graceky.org and setup giving through your InFellowship account.
4. Don’t wait. Start giving some money away TODAY!

Assignment:

1. Write down what % of your income you THINK you gave away this past year by investing in the church and kingdom business?
2. Crunch the numbers and find out what you ACTUALLY gave away.
3. Look at that actual amount of giving, in light of your total income. If it’s a wake-up call, sit down and make plans to grow or increase your giving, starting with your local church and expanding out to other kingdom ministries and people in need.