

Luke

See Jesus

He Owns It – We Use It

Luke 12:13-21

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / March 27, 2022

Five Ways that you can fight hard to keep money from getting the wrong place in your life:

I. Don't Let Your World Shrink Down to the Size of Your Latest Money Problem

Luke 12:13 “Someone in the crowd said to Him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’”

In that day it was common for people to go to the rabbis to settle a dispute like this, but the problem here is this man's timing and his priorities. Jesus was in the middle of a sober, serious sermon when this man blurts out his request, showing he has not been listening to anything Jesus was saying.

Luke 12:4-5 “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵But I will warn you whom to fear: fear Him who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him!”

II. Maintain a Wartime Mentality about Money and Covetousness

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

Money is one of Satan's favorite devices for distracting us from the main thing! He'd love to get you tangled up in a money problem – either chasing after it, living for it, or worrying about it.

Ephesians 5:3 NIV “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.”

God warns us against sexual immorality (Gr. “porneia”) and greed (Gr. “pleonexia”) in the same breath, saying both of them should be unthinkable for Christians. Both of these Greek words refer to something that gets its hooks into a person and starts to own or rule them.

Possessions by their very nature put you at risk because every possession has the potential to possess you. Be very careful, prayerful, and slow about how much stuff you add to your life.

Some of you are saying “no” to ministry opportunities that will affect souls for eternity, saying you don't have enough time, but it's because you're worn out and staying so busy with all your stuff.

III. Allow Other People to Speak into Your Life about Money

Luke 12:17 “And he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’”

The rich fool was busy having a conversation all by himself. He doesn't talk to God about it and he doesn't get godly counsel from others about what he should do with all of this surplus.

Do you want God involved in your finances or not? Is it your habit to seek out godly counsel about your giving and your money?

Matthew 6:1-4 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

This passage often gets 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.’”

~ Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle*

Nowhere in the Bible does it say it’s wrong to have riches and great resources, but it does tell us over and over that it’s absolutely wrong to live for it, love it, and selfishly hold onto as much of it as we can.

“...One of the main things that sets GFC apart is the impact this church has on lives. I can’t thank you enough for spending time with me. More importantly, I am taken back that for the past four years you’ve been praying for me and my business. It is my desire that the financial resources of this company continue to be used for Kingdom business. Feel free to ask me about our giving each time you see me. The one thing that really hit home after our discussion today was that I am on the front lines using our money for Him and His greater purpose. I felt like I was not in the battle because I was *quote* ‘only giving money.’ After our meeting I now see that my business is a way we are doing Kingdom business right here in KY. God has given me this business for His greater purpose.

I certainly understand that there are hundreds trying to do full time ministry, being called to do so, that can’t get financial support to get out there. If making money and giving it away is a greater need, then I am the man for that job. You did not talk me out of ministry but you helped me realize that I can do both. I look forward to keeping you up to date on our progress. I will pray and resolve that we are one of those families that will help take Grace through the next ten years. I hope you get to look back in 10 years and see a family that loves God and is going all out for Him. We are here to serve in whatever capacity God and Grace sees fit. We are ready, willing, and able.

~ GFC Member

IV. Don’t Ignore the Most Important Money Principle of all

Death separates you and your money forever.

Don’t ever lose sight of the fact that you will leave every single possession and penny behind except for what you send on ahead by giving it away and investing in God’s kingdom.

Luke 12:20 “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you...’”

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

Luke 12:20 “...and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?”

Homework:

1. Right now, write down what % of your income you think you gave away this past year by investing in the church and kingdom business.
2. Go home and look up the actual figures and see what you really gave away.
3. Find yourself on the giving chart of our church family and make plans to grow or increase your giving.

