

Where Your Heart Is

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 12:13-21

Discussion Questions

1. How do you regard your material possessions? How important are they to you? Share with the group
2. Read Luke 12:13-21. This passage tells us of a man who interrupted Jesus while He was teaching His disciples. The man was not trying to learn from what Jesus was teaching, but he was concerned about his own problem. What did this man want Jesus to do (v. 13)? What did Jesus see in this man? How did Jesus deal with the man's problem? Is it sinful to be wealthy?
3. Jesus is concerned with man's heart, where your heart is. Is your heart turned toward greediness or is it bent on loving and giving (Proverbs 21:26). From Luke 12 you can learn three signs to discover where your heart is whether it is for God or for something else. The first sign is DIRECTION. In other words, be possessed by God, not by possessions. What warning did Jesus give as a key point of His parable (v.15). Discuss the story of the rich man in this parable. Share with the group what you've learned from his life story. How do you allow God to direct your life instead of being directed by what you have?
4. The second sign is DETERMINATION. Fight off greed by thanking God for life's resources. Why is greed hard to fight off? Share with the group the usual things that even Christians are greedy about. Why would giving thanks to God, giving away the abundance of what you have for serving Him, and building up others the best antidote to being greedy? How does thanksgiving change your perspective in dealing with greed?
5. The third sign is Dedication. Make a life by what you give, not by what you get. How did Paul describe the joy of giving and living in 2 Corinthians 9:7-8. Why does trying to hang on to everything end with losing the joy of abundance? How does giving and being a blessing to other people release the grip of materialism? Share with the group how God has blessed you for being a cheerful giver.

Walk

Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot! Make a life by what you give, not by what you get. What then do you do with your possessions? First, see them as a tool to be used to grow in your walk with God. Take time this week to look at your calendar and your checkbook to see where God really does fit in the day-to-day priorities of your life. Second, fight off greed by thanking God. Spend time each day this week to give specific thanks for some area of your life. Third, give more than you get. Give from what God has given you. Give to a worthy cause; help someone in need; give your time or a hand to someone in need to reflect your love for God and how He has blessed you.

Worship & Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for reminding us through the message to put you first in our hearts. More than the material things that this world offers, we seek you and desire to fully dedicate our lives to you. Forgive us when at times we lose our focus and are drawn away by worldly pleasure or by sin, allow us to trust you more and more each day – whether of plenty or of lack. Increase our faith until we can honestly say, “We’d rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today”. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.