

“One of Life’s Strongest Desires”

Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, November 27, 2016

Introduction: One of life’s strongest desires is for material things. There is nothing new about this. Over two thousand years ago, Jesus told a man that life did not consist of the abundance of material things (Luke 12:15). Two thousand years later most people have never understood that and spend the majority of their time trying to acquire material things rather than fulfilling the purpose for which they were created: to enjoy an intimate relationship with God.

Text: Luke 12:13-21

- A huge crowd had gathered while Jesus was condemning the Pharisees and lawyers (12:1).
- A dispute usually attracts a crowd.
- At this point a man stepped out of the crowd and asked Jesus to settle a dispute between his brother and himself over an inheritance.

T.S. Let’s look at the story (Luke 12:13-21).

1. Material abundance can mess you up.

- In Luke 12, the man who stepped out of the crowd had let material abundance mess him up (12:13).
- In Luke 18, another man we know as the rich young ruler let material abundance destroy him.

Application: We all own a lot of things. There is nothing wrong with owning a lot of things unless the things you own actually own you. Let me give you a little test to see if this is happening in your life.

1. Do material things keep you from worshipping God?

2. Do material things keep you from serving God?

3. Do material things keep you from obeying God?

T.S. Material things can be a blessing or they can be a curse.

2. Spiritual abundance will lift you up.

- You will experience God's grace (2 Cor. 9:8).

Illustration: God possesses an infinite amount of grace. In this context, grace refers to money and material needs. Grace is used here as a synonym for resources.

Application: God will give an abundance of resources not to satisfy selfish desires, but for every good work.

- experience God's power (Eph. 3:20)

Illustration: God's power working in and through believers is unlimited and far beyond our understanding. The Bible says, "When they saw their boldness of Peter and John...they realized that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).

Application: When spiritual abundance is your priority, God's power will be on you and in you.

Conclusion: Your greatest abundance is your spiritual abundance. Don't let your material abundance take it from you.