

Living Word Fellowship Church

Pastor Paul Cannings, Ph.D.

I. Jesus Teaching on Money and Our Possessions

Lesson #1

A. An Overview:

Christ came at a time of Roman oppression and poverty. We read several stories that reference baggers. Christ's family seems to have been poor from the offering they brought to the temple (Luke 2:22-24). During this time, when a person was rich, the people (the rich young ruler; story before this passage; Matthew 19:16-26) viewed this person as experiencing God's favor (Abraham, Job, David, Solomon). To be blessed (animals having more animals, crops producing much) is a result of the person being in right standing with God.

After Christ had instructed them about the rich man who thought he had it all because of his great harvest, He concludes by saying to the disciples, *"So is the man who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."* (vs. 21; Rev. 3:15-18) This is because life does not consist of possessions (vs. 15), it is given and sustained by Christ. (James 1:17) Because of this, Christ instructs them how to live life on earth. Christ went from this man wanting his brother's inheritance to the rich man who thought he had it made, and then his soul was required of him (Luke 12:13-21).

The mindset Christ challenged the disciples to have (they had nothing after leaving everything to follow Christ; Matthew 19:27-30; Luke 5:1-11) while living on earth is to not live like the world worrying about what they shall eat drink or wear. Christ explains that one reason a person desires possessions is to feel secure and in control of his or her destiny. Jesus ends this section by instructing them that God will provide such needs (Luke 12:29-34). So, if they turn out to be hoarders or focus on being rich, they will not seek God (Matthew 6:19-24; the Rich young ruler did not follow Christ, Matthew 19:16-26). If their focus is to continuously seek God in how to manage living each day, they will faithfully do the will of God each day and be less stressed (Philippians 4:10-14), and their reward in heaven will be great rather than "naked, wretched, and poor" (Matthew 19:27-30; Rev. 3:15-18). When they trust the Lord in this manner, they would not walk away from serving God like the rich young ruler (1 Timothy 6:17-19; Acts 3:6), rather, when *"silver and gold have I none"* they would faithfully do what God called them to do (Acts 3:6).

"It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it." (Proverbs 10:22).

B. Hoarding Compared to Saving:

1. Hoarding takes place (Luke 12:13-21):

a) When our life consists of our possessions (Luke 12:15). To have this mindset is to live like the world (Luke 12:29-30), and to lose our rewards (Rev. 3:15-18).

b) When we can never have enough (Luke 12:15). We struggle to be content (Phil. 4:10-13).

c) When we worry all the time as to how we will make it (Luke 12:29) it leads to seeking ways to establish our own sense of security. This is vividly portrayed when we cannot serve God because we have to go and make more money (Phil. 3:7-8).

2. Hoarding is stimulated by a mindset that what we have acquired does not come from God, but it is from our hard work (James 1:17).

a) "And I **will** (James 4:13) say to my soul, *"Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take you ease, eat, drink and be merry."*

3. When we believe more, we store up wealth and the more we can enjoy life, and the more secure we are:

a) Ease (Luke 12:19).

b) Long life (Luke 12:19).

4. How do scriptures discuss **saving for a rainy day**:

a) Luke 14:28 – count the cost.

b) Proverbs 6:6-8 – an ant storing up.

c) Gen. 41 – Joseph and Pharaoh – 7 years of good and 7 years of famine.

d) Proverbs 13:22 – "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children."

e) Matthew 7:24-29; Luke 6:47-49 – The Foolish and Wise Builder.