

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF MAN

LUKE CHAPTER 12:13-21

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“LIFE, ACCORDING TO WHO?” – PART 1

*THE HUMANITY AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST,
THE SON OF GOD, AND THE SON OF MAN*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Greed, Idolatry, Worry, Selfishness

Luke 12:13-21

Then one from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” :14 But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” :15 And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” :16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. :17 And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ :18 So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. :19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” :20 But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ :21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

What Would be Your Definition of **Life**?

the human answer, is a variable based upon your desires and personal views.

It’s **not a political** question, it’s not an **economic** question,
it’s a **moral, ethical, spiritual** question = it’s a value question.

from the vantage point of a rich man;

to have the means to do what you want when you want

in the mind of a scientist;

it’s that mysterious moment when being and purpose begin to function.

from the disciplines of a financial advisor it might be;

a person’s ability to be independent and self sufficient.

LIFE, ACCORDING TO WHO?

The Bible Defines “What Life Is” in a More Broad and Full Way;

- **On the Physical Plane**, Life is at Conception.
- It’s the going about Life called “Living”
- **On the Spiritual Plane**, Life is Coming to Know God
- It’s the Receiving of a New Life that Jesus Christ Offers.

The Truth is; That the Definition of Life
cannot be determined by man. we don't have that kind of knowledge or authority. life
has been granted to us, it has been gifted to each of us!

John 1:9

That He (Jesus Christ) was the true Light which gives **light**
to every man coming into the world. **photizo, fo-tid'-zo -**

Acts 17:26-28a

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has
determined their reappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, **:27** so that they should
seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each
one of us; **:28** for in Him we **live** and **move** and have **our being**...

LIFE, ACCORDING TO WHO?

1.) What defines your life?

v.13-21

Jesus had just finished a passionate and convicting announcement to every soul present, that what's
in your heart will someday come out and what you confess becomes your Lord.

Verse 13a

Then one from the crowd said to Him...

>>> AN INTERRUPTION, HE CUT JESUS OFF <<<

**in a moment of self-centeredness and poor timing,
a man calls out from the crowd to Jesus.**

Fact is; This Man who had a completely different agenda.
and that is the issue. every one of us has an agenda that drives us.

Verse 13b

"Teacher, **tell** my brother to divide the **inheritance** with me."

Tell - epo, ep'-o; command him, order him, to make a ruling in my favor..

Jesus Uses the Interruption to Graphically drive the point to what He had been Teaching.

LIFE, ACCORDING TO WHO? WHAT DEFINES YOUR LIFE?

1a.) Is it in the "things" that you own?

v.14

But Jesus said to him, "Man, who made Me a **judge** or an **arbitrator** over you?"

(**arbitrator**; one who discerns & settles civil disputes)

From this Man, A Question Comes.

and it's a question that is still being asked today. In fact I have
heard this question asked of me before.

the response that Jesus gives is just as perfect then as it is now,
because the human heart is the same.

settling court cases was not what Jesus came to do.

if that man would have been listening to what Jesus had been saying,
he would have had a change of mind.

John 3:17

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

Verse 14

there is a truth here hidden from our English language.

the word here "You" is in the Plural.

>>>>>>>> it's more accurately "you" (s) <<<<<<<<<

It's the Two of You, Both of you Brothers are **Covetous!**

Proverbs 21:26

(about the human heart the Bible speaks that) "He **covets** greedily all day long,"

Verse 15

And He said to them, "Take **heed** and **beware** of **covetousness**, for one's life does not **consist** in
the abundance of the things he possesses (or is responsible for)."

To Take **Heed** and To **Beware**...

(be watching out and be guarding against it)

why? – because of the malignancy of "covetousness"

"**covetousness**"

it's the 10th Commandment of the 10 Commandments!

it's probably given last so we would remember it first.

Exodus 20:17

"You shall not **covet** your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male
servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor's."

because our lives **do not consist** in the abundance
of the things we possess.

it's a lie as old as dirt.

**Is it the "things" that you own
THAT DEFINES YOUR LIFE?**

**It's Perhaps the Most Dangerous of All Sins Because It's so Acceptable, - - It's
what Bit Eve in the Garden**

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman (Eve) saw that the tree **was good for food**, that it **was pleasant to the eyes**,
and a tree desirable to **make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband
with her, and he ate.

we need to recognize several things.

covetousness causes our **hearts** to make appraisals of things.

covetousness causes our **eyes** to lust for what others have

covetousness causes our **desires** to grasp after things

why is STUFF so important to us?

why is someone else's stuff EVEN more important to us?

how can I defeat this sin of covetousness?

#1 - learn this; all your stuff, isn't your stuff at all

#2 - understand what stuff is for, it's to manage for God's purposes.

#3 - be honest, the stuff has been loaned to you - it will return to God in the end.

#4 - find out what you should be doing with your stuff?

Proverbs 30:8b-9

Give me neither poverty nor riches— Feed me with the food allotted to me; :9 Lest I be full and deny
You, And say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.

Ivor Powell writes;

"it's a tragic thing, some people are so poor, all they have is money."

this is the danger.

this man, in just three sentences uses the personal pronoun "I" six (6) times
and the possessive pronoun five (5) times. (11) times, it's about himself

Conclusion;

This man could only think about himself and did think about himself more than anyone else on the planet.

He was the one to be worshipped on a man-made throne

Verse 15c

Because for one's life does not **consist** in the abundance of the things he possesses."

but people will define my life based upon what I drive, own...

the word 'consist' is the Greek word - **esti**, es-tee' which means to exist, to live, to be.

In The List of Those Who Love Their Sin More Than God the sin of covetousness appears

1 Corinthians 6:9

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.

~~Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,~~

1 Corinthians 6:10 ~~nor thieves,~~ **nor covetous,**

Remember Church, It was the **Tenth (10th) Commandment**,
But what is the **First (1st) Commandment?**
"You shall have no other gods before me."

It was the 10th Commandment that convicted the apostle Paul and he cried out to God for forgiveness.

Romans 7:7-8

What shall we say then? *Is the law sin?* Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, **"You shall not covet."** :8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire...

(The knowledge of the law, illuminated the sin, the line was drawn, then Saul/Paul burned inside, desiring to cross over that line to get to the stuff)

Romans 7:24-8:1

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? :25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. **8:1** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to **those who are in Christ Jesus,**

LIFE, ACCORDING TO WHO? WHAT DEFINES YOUR LIFE?

1b.) Is it in the “volume” of what you have?

v.16-17

Here are The Thoughts of a Covetous Man

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. :17

And **he thought within himself**, saying,

“What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?”

the danger of having many things is that you can get tangled up in them. most people cannot handle the stuff they have and those who can, do it by keeping their eyes on God.

- Benjamin Franklin put it this way;

“He does not possess wealth if he allows it to possess him.”

WHAT DEFINES YOUR LIFE **Is it in the “volume” of what you have?**

What’s His Motto? “He Who Dies With The Most Toys Wins”

The Volume of what a Man has will eventually become a trap.

Jesus warned against “Riches” - those things that money can buy

Matthew 13:22

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and **the deceitfulness of riches** choke out the word, and he becomes unfruitful. – *make believe Christians*

Paul’s Secret to Contentment

Philippians 4:11-13

for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: :12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. :13 **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

A friend of mine moved from here to “another Southern California town” and he told me that he could define his community with one word – “MORE!”

“Look At Me, Look What I Have, You Want It Don’t You?”

material things really don’t have any value or volume of their own. the danger is when we begin to assign our personal worth to the things we have.

(in a second they can become worthless)

1 Timothy 6:6-11

Now godliness (knowing God) with contentment is great gain. (wealth) :7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. :8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. :9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. :10 For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. :11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

LIFE, ACCORDING TO WHO? WHAT DEFINES YOUR LIFE?

1c.) Is it in the “dreams” of what can be?

v.18

:18 So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. :19 **And I will say to my soul**, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.”

Instead of Giving The Abundance Away

he hoards it, he builds a storage yard for his stuff.

1 John 3:17

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how can the love of God abide in him?

1 Timothy 6:10

For **the love of** money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their **greediness**, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Verse 19

And I will say to my soul...

this is both sad and funny at the same time.

he's talking to himself, reasoning with himself, consulting himself.

listen - if you're the one you're getting advice from, you're in deep trouble.

This is Textbook - Proverbs 16:25

There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.

**Do Yourself a Favor;
Don't Get Advice From Yourself**

HUMAN ADVICE ALWAYS PROMOTES HUMAN INTEREST

Mark 8:35-37

If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will find true life. :36 And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? :37 Is anything worth more than your soul?

this is a powerful truth that Jesus reveals about the human soul.

Jesus is saying that a man who's self absorbed cannot see reality. there's something in his field of view, and that something is his "I's and his Me's and his Mine's" ...

and when the rich find out that they cannot buy redemption, love, peace and joy, they fall harder because they realize that wealth is not accepted there.

Verse 19

this man failed to see God's word accurately,

He says in Luke 12:19... **"Soul, take your ease, (recline or retire) eat, and drink and be merry..."**
.... (for tomorrow we die!) is not even in his thoughts.

Isaiah 22:12-13

The LORD Almighty, called you to weep and mourn. He told you to shave your heads in sorrow for your sins and to wear clothes of sackcloth to show your repentance. :13 But instead, you dance and play;... you feast on meat, and drink wine and say "Let's eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die."

why is his plan rooted in danger?
because it PREEMPTS God's timing.

What's the Lesson in the Parable?

it's in what the man wants. "I want my inheritance and I want it now."

And I Want To Rip Open the Pages and Ask Him...
Which One Sir?

the glories of this world or the glories of heaven?

the doctrine of stewardship
if what we have has come from God,

then whose is it really?
what is our responsibility to it?
what authority do I have over it?
what should I do with it?

the Lords
to manage it for His glory
to be faithful with it
cause it to grow, to work

many well meaning people, with good intentions, make a gross assumption. that is, that they have the right to determine what should be done with what God owns.

Jeremiah 2:13

“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn out for themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water.

(bank account) a **Cistern is what Israel** (bank account)
would store their water in as they do today. without water, you can't live.

if it's not water today - what is it for you, that you can't live without?

IS IT THE U.S. DOLLAR, IS IT GOLD, YOUR HOUSE, YOUR HEALTH?

it may not be what you're thinking, unless you're thinking the Lord God!

LIFE, ACCORDING TO WHO? WHAT DEFINES YOUR LIFE?

1d.) Is it in the god of your making?

v.20-21

:20 But God said to him, “**Fool!** This night your soul will be **required** of you; then whose will those **things** be which you have provided?” :21 “So is he who lays up **treasure for himself**, and is not rich toward God.”

Covetousness is Idolatry

Idolatry is the worship of a foreign deity at a foreign altar.

every one of us has a master, a god that we depend on and
look to for strength beyond ourselves.

2,000 years ago Jesus Summed it up Perfectly.

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve **God** and **Mammon**.

Verse 20

But God said to him, “**Fool!** This night your soul will be **Required** of you;

required *ajpaite+w apaito, ap-ah'-ee-teh-o;*

an accounting term, meaning to call back into accounting, to review or to audit.
to settle an account and to give explanation.

The Word Implies That God has the Exclusive Rights to the Call - The Timing of It.
“To Call The Loan” on Your Life at any Moment.

“I AM going to be asking you to give Me an Accounting
of what I have given to you.”

Verse 20

“So is he who lays up **treasure for himself**, and is not rich toward God.”

why are material things so important?

comfort, security, dependence, acceptance, status, appearance

because things can make you think that they can give you everything that God can - - but it doesn't
last – it can't last.

why do we put so much value on material things?

power, acknowledgement, meaning, attention, position

are material things bad?

material things are a-moral. they have no innate powers or value.

it's what the beholder **appraises** the thing to be.

It's in That Moment that a Treasure is Stored

either in heaven or on earth.

it's not what it is that matters, it's why it is that counts.

money is not evil, but the love of it is sin.

sex is not evil, but outside of marriage it's sin.

music is not evil, but when used to offend God, it's a sin.

Here's a Litmus Test

- do you believe that God is real?
- do you believe that God has given you His word?
- is that word true?

if “yes” to these questions, then you are investing energies, monies, opportunities in God's
kingdom work to reach others for Jesus Christ.

AM I SENDING IT UP AHEAD?

or am I leaving God's money and assets to ungodly family members or a son or daughter who could
care less about God's people or work?

Our Checkbooks Tell the Truth

**I want to end today, by going back to the beginning.
the man was looking forward to an inheritance.**

Ephesians 1:11

In Christ we have obtained an **inheritance**...

Colossians 3:23-24

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, :24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the **inheritance**;

But What Is The Inheritance?

Matthew 19:29

says that the **inheritance** is; Eternal Life.

1 Peter 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, :4 to an **inheritance** incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves **treasures** on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; :20 but lay up for yourselves **treasures** in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. :21 For where your **treasure** is, there your heart will be also.

How do I lay up treasures in heaven?

(it's simpler than you think)

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

This was the man's demise;

(1) he could live beyond himself and (2) he could not see beyond this world.

**Maybe It's Time To Ask Ourselves This Question
do I see the things that I have as belonging to the Lord or to me?**

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

End of Study