



Ask, Ever ask a question that when it comes out, you kind of wish you had not asked it out loud? What was the question, the setting and the outcome?

Here Jesus is asked a question that was probably not completely thought through by the asker.

Luke 12:13-21

*"Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."*

*Luke 12:13-21 ESV*

Jesus says three things here:

- To one person in particular
- To the ones in listening area
- To the fictional man in the parable

Jesus asks, Who made me a judge? - v. 13-14

Remember that in Luke 9 Jesus tells them to count the cost of following Him.

Jesus addresses that He did not come to settle petty disputes but to focus on the major things of life and eternity.

Jesus warns - Take care . . . against covetousness . . . v. 15

Ask, What might be something that you have longed for in the past to the point of taking it too far and it becoming too consuming? Why do you think we chase after things that are not ours in hopes that we can get them?

This particular commandment, which is the 10th commandment, we can't really tell if someone is coveting or not. There are not always outward signs of covetousness- an inordinate desire for others stuff or persons.

Jesus exclaims, Fool! v. 16-21

When we have much, our tendency is to want to get more and then keep it to ourselves.

In these verses we see that the land of the rich man produced bountifully and he quickly proclaimed, "Let's build bigger barns!"

Ask, What are some potential pitfalls for you when it comes to getting something and wanting more? The interesting thing is that many times it can be the little things that we want to keep to ourselves. It is not always the big things others can see, but the smaller things.

Say, If you don't store it up,

- you can sell it
- you can give it away

Ask, Which are you most likely to do – sell or give away?

Here we see that the rich man believes he created the bounty and it is his and he also believes it is for him. We can be much the same in our lives with our stuff.

v. 19 - relax, eat, drink and be merry – He is quickly deceived into thinking that all of this stuff is for him. Jesus deflates the standard motivation for our doing. Jesus strongly states the error of his thinking and selfish motivation.

If you think that wealth can save you, Jesus calls you a fool.

Jesus says these three things (restated from before)

- I am not your errand boy; I came to conquer death and save you from your sin
- You are not what you possess. Your worth is not in your wealth or in your own creation.
- Wealth will not save you (financial, skills, humor, hard worker, - not anything you bring to the table can save you)

What are the reasons that we miss the reason for the season?

- We let trivial events distract us (give me my part - bickering with family members)
- We let the desire for stuff distract us (I need more! Present envy.)
- We let wealth turn us into fools.

Jesus is the reason for the season and so are we.

Because we are sinful and in need of a Savior, Jesus came to redeem us.

Only Jesus alone makes us good. The best we bring to this equation is our sin.

Take time to share prayer requests and spend time praying for one another.

Encourage each other to continue to participate in the 45 Days of Thankfulness.