

Hello everyone, happy August! Today is a beautiful day here in southern Ohio and I hope it is just as nice where ever you are. May God richly bless you and yours this week.

Pastor Don

“Accumulating a Proper Treasure” Luke 12:13-21 Aug. 4, 2013

Customer: "Your watches seem so cheap. Only twenty dollars! How much does it cost to make them?"

Shopkeeper: "They cost me twenty dollars to make them."

Customer: "But if it costs twenty dollars to make these watches, and you sell them for twenty dollars, where does your profit come in?"

Shopkeeper: "That comes from repairing them."

The disreputable-looking panhandler picked out an elderly gentleman of most benevolent aspect and made a plea for a small financial contribution. When he had finished his narrative of misery and woe the elderly gentleman replied benignantly: "My good friend, I have no money, but I can give you some good advice." The tramp spat contemptuously, and uttered an oath of disgust.

"If you hain't got no money," he jeered, "I reckon your advice ain't worth hearin'."

Do we have treasures of earthly wisdom that we are willing to share? Is our earthly wisdom things that we have learned from Jesus?

CORRIE TEN BOOM: I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

MISSIONARY JIM ELLIOT: "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."

As they were emptying their trash at the county dump, a man and his wife spotted an old 4 poster bed. The man said honey, this can be fixed up, would you like it? She said yes so they asked the

attendant about taking it home. He sold it to them for a few dollars and they loaded it into their pickup and went home. They noticed that the bed, which was in several pieces, was very heavy; especially the 4 posts. As they were unloading them, they found out why. The end came off of the post and out poured coins of all denominations; all minted in the 1800's. All 4 posts were full of these coins. It really is true that one mans trash is another mans treasure.

What is our treasure? How do we go about accumulating it? Treasure means wealth or riches stored or accumulated, especially in the form of precious metals, money, jewels, or plate. It means wealth, rich materials, or valuable things. It is any thing or person greatly valued or highly prized. We are God's treasures; is Jesus our treasure? Pray.

Chapter 12 opens with Jesus talking to His disciples, surrounded by a huge crowd.

Vs 1 begins "In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another". Everywhere Jesus went, He drew a crowd. This crowd was so large; they were stepping on each other. Some people in this crowd were true followers of Christ; some only came to be entertained while others came just to cause trouble. Why did we come to church this morning?

A man from this huge crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." This man was very rude. Notice he did not ask Jesus to talk to his brother, he told Him to talk to his brother. He did not even say please or thank you. How rude. Are we that rude when we request something from Jesus?

Coming to Jesus with this personal and private matter was not as uncommon as we might think. Jesus was a teacher. They looked at him like they would any other Rabbi. Settling family disputes was one of the things Rabbi's did in those days. They acted as mediator and their judgment was final. But Jesus knew that a legal judgment would not resolve the real problem. Greed and selfishness were on display here. So, just like he always does, Jesus gets to the real problem.

He asks who made me a judge or arbitrator over you. He refused to get entangled in their argument. He went right to the heart of their problem and told them to beware of covetousness. He's telling us that a person's life is more than the sum of their possessions Disputes over possessions destroy relationships. Jesus is about building loving relationships; 1st between us and

God, then between us and our fellow believers, and lastly between us and the lost. How are our relationships this morning?

Let us look at the question Jesus asked this man; who did make Jesus judge over us? In John 5:22-23 Jesus said “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.” Jesus is the Judge of all the earth, but He did not come to judge our petty disagreements; He came to Judge sin. He said in John 5:24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” Jesus gives life to those who will believe in Him. That is why He came. He says in John 10:10 “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.” Have we received this more abundant life from Jesus?

To make His point Jesus, once again tells us a parable. He tells us of a rich man who had great land. It produced plenty. The bounty was so great the man had a problem. He had an abundance of crops. His barns were already full, where would he put this year’s yield? He got a brilliant idea; he would tear down his existing barns and replace them with new bigger barns. At least he thought it was a good idea. Then he planned on saying to his soul that we have many goods laid up. They should last many, many years. Let us relax and sit back. Let us eat and drink and be merry. The man was going to retire, going to take it easy; going to enjoy life. Nothing wrong with that. He had worked hard; he had saved for his retirement. Perhaps now was the best time for him to realize his dream retirement. Sounds like a good plan doesn’t it?

Only one problem, he did not check it out with God. God calls him a fool and tells him that he is going to die tonight. That is what “this night your soul shall be required of you” means. All of his planning and hard work will no longer benefit him. As a matter of fact God asks him who will get all that he has provided. It is a certainty he can not take any of it with him. All earthly wealth is temporary. It is a tool given to us by God to be used for his purposes, not our selfish desires. What do we do with the assets God gives us?

Psalm 14:1 “The fool has said in his heart “there is no God.” God calls this man a fool. God says this man does not believe in him. He has certainly lived his life as if he does not believe in God. He says “I” 6 times in his little discourse here. ‘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.”’ This man was living a selfish, greedy, covetous life. He lived his life his way. He never consulted God, sought His direction or shared his blessings. Do we seek God’s will in our life? Do we share our blessings?

This rich man had forgotten one very important thing, that the earth is the Lord’s. He owns it and everything in it. He makes the crops grow. We are all just his stewards, looking after his

goods. God reminds us in Hosea 2:8-9 that the grain and the wine are His. We are not to hoard what He gives us all for ourselves, we are to share and use these things for His glory. This man was not doing this. He was selfishly making his plans, not ever considering what God might want. James 4:13-15 warns us not to boast about what we will do tomorrow. James reminds us that we don't know what tomorrow holds. He says instead of saying tomorrow I will do this or that, we should say if the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that. James reminds us that our life is a mere vapor which vanishes as fast as it appears. Are we living this short life for God?

Notice Jesus said the man thought within himself. He never said these things out loud; he was just thinking and planning in his mind. God knows our thoughts! He reads our minds Do our thoughts and plans make him happy or sad? Do they bring him glory or shame? Do we seek His will when we make our plans?

Jesus ends his parable by saying that everyone who selfishly stores up treasure only for themselves is a fool. vs.21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Are we fools today? Who are storing treasure for? How do we accumulate our treasure? God's way or mans way? Who owns our treasure?

How do we store up treasure for God? How do we become rich towards God? Prov. 9:12 "If u are wise, u r wise for yourself; if u scoff, u will bear it alone." Solomon is telling us here that being a Christian and having a personal relationship with Jesus is for our own good. No one else can get into heaven based on our relationship with Jesus. Our influence and example might help others who see and hear us, but it won't get them to heaven. We each must know Jesus for ourselves. God has no grandchildren, only children. We each must make our own decision for him. If we do not choose him, if we scoff at him, we alone bear the consequences of our action. We alone are condemned. Wise & good people must thank God; foolish & wicked people only have themselves to thank.

Satan can only tempt us, he can not make us sin. We are responsible for our own actions.

We each do have influence in other people's lives, but we can not make them do any thing. It is their choice just like it is our choice whether or not to serve, love, honor, and obey Jesus. Wise people choose Jesus; foolish ones do not. Are we wise today or are we foolish? Are we accumulating a proper treasure?

This certain rich mans biggest mistake was not bragging or storing or planning ahead. His biggest mistake was not becoming rich in the things of God. There is nothing wrong in being rich. The wrong comes in when we don't use our resources properly. 1Tim.6:18-19 is written to

wealthy people. "Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." Eternal life only comes through Jesus; we can't buy it, steal it, earn it or inherit it; but once we have it, it should produce fruit.

Wise Christians have fruit, do we?

Many, who have abundance of the world's goods, are poor in the things of God. That is what Jesus is talking about in verse 21. R we rich in the things of God? It is pure folly for us to seek to earthly riches if we don't seek Godly riches first. Jesus truly tells us in Mark 8:36 "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul." This rich man lost his own soul; therefore God calls him a fool. R we fools today or r we wise? Are we laying up treasure for ourselves or for God?

Long ago, in a kingdom far, far away, a rich king hired a "fool" to entertain him and make him laugh when he was sad. He gave the fool a golden scepter and told him that when he met a greater fool than he, to pass the golden scepter to that person.

Years passed and one day the king grew very ill. As he neared death, the king called for his "fool" wanting to be made to laugh one last time. "I'm going on a very long journey," said the king to the fool. "Have you made preparations and arranged for accommodations at your destination?" asked the fool. "No," answered the king. "I've been too busy and I didn't think I would be leaving so soon." The fool handed the king his golden scepter and said, "Sire, you are a greater fool than me since you have made no plans for your long journey." Have we made preparations for our journey? Do we know where we are going?

Luke 12:32-34 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Where is our treasure? Are we rich towards God? Are we good stewards of God's property? Do we remember whose we are? Are we living for God or for ourselves? Is Jesus our treasure?

Let us live wisely for God. Let us not be foolish. AMEN. Pray.

