



Put God First – Life Goes Best

Part 2 - Measuring your Possessions

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INTRO

- Success Fantasy
- What happens at Christmas – gifts get so old – so quickly
- Lifestyles of the rich & famous
- Ways to make a million

1. YOU AIN'T WHAT YOU OWN

- Luke 12:15 – A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions
- The Cultural Norm We Battle:
He who has the most toys when he dies - wins!

2. DO YOU OWN YOUR STUFF OR DOES YOUR STUFF OWN YOU?

- 1 Tim 6:6-10 - ⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.
- Having money isn't wrong; it's when money has YOU! It 's the love of money – being eager for money and the unquenchable need to have more that will kill you!
- Billionaire – Just a little more.
- QUICK SAND: Chasing money and the things that it can buy is a trap – it sucks you down and holds you.
- Loving Money leads to TRAGEDY – wander -> faith
- Many griefs - Ruin and destruction
- Understanding Greed is like Hunting WOLVES: Knife Frozen in Blood stuck in the ground – in a panicked frenzy, licks until his own tongue is lacerated. Keeps licking but now he's tasting is OWN blood and is bleeding to death – and dies...

- Matt. 6:24 – Cannot serve God and money.
- Make your choice: will you serve God and all He brings or Money and all it brings?

3. YOU DON'T OWN WHAT YOU HAVE

Matthew 25:19-30

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸ ""So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- Talent Story
- We are stewards of the possessions that we acquire. We manage them for God. We will give an account for how well we have used them.
- It's mine – it's HIS!

4. REMEMBER YOUR NAKED ENTRY AND EXIT

- 1 Timothy 6:7 - ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.
- Life/Death – the financial neutralizers
- Naked in – Naked out
- BE CAREFUL IN YOUR SEARCH FOR RICHES THAT YOU DON'T LOSE THE THINGS THAT MONEY CAN'T BUY

5. The SECRET OF GROWING CONTENTMENT

- Philippians 4:11-13 – Contentment
- 1 Timothy 6:6,8
- Matt. 6:31-33
- Real godliness grows out of a deep trust in God knowing that He will take care of you. That trust brings a deep contentment which is a sign that you are truly successful in life!
- Contentment doesn't mean being complacent. Rather, work hard to do well in life and use what you earn in a God-honoring, Kingdom focused way.
- Do you love people and use things or use people and love things?

6. DECIDE TO BE RICH TOWARD GOD

- Matthew 6:19-21-Treasure in heaven
- Mark 10:17-31 – Rich Young Ruler
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19 – Hope in God
- What can you take with you?
 - A responsive heart toward God.
 - Acts of Love committed in faith
 - Other people you have helped to find God
- **Learn how to manage your life and finances now and then for the rest of your days, live for what really matters to God in eternity.**