

STOP STRESSING ABOUT MONEY: BE RICH TOWARD GOD!
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None of us like to admit that we are greedy. Here's the problem, today we don't see greed as a very big sin. How many say we are lust-filled or proud? We say, "I need to filter my internet and sexual media." What do you do if you struggle with greed.

What are we going to do to not fall into this trap. We keep from looking at those things that cause us to want more. "Thou shalt not covet." 15% of everything that Jesus said was about money. He talks more about money than heaven or hell combined.

Whoever you are, don't assume that you are not greedy!

We think of others. Am I struggling with this sin? There is a reason it's in the Ten Commandments.

Fortune cookie: Your judgment is a little off this time. Have you ever gotten a negative fortune cookie criticize you? Maybe our judgment is off and we never considered being greedy.

Luke 12: 13. Jesus says, "Tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me!" Said to Jesus can you handle this for me?" Deuteronomy 21, The older brother 2/3 and the younger brother gets 1/3. He is asking for what's fair.

¹³ Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me."

¹⁴ Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?"¹⁵ Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

¹⁶ Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. ¹⁷ He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. ¹⁹ And I'll sit back and say to myself, 'My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!'"

²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

²¹ “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.” Luke 12:16-21 NLT

Doesn't that seem a little harsh? Be on the lookout be sure you don't covet possessions. Who appointed me judge? This is not what Jesus came to do. When he said, “Watch out and be on your guard for all kinds of greed.”

All kinds of greed. When were you concerned about this? Do you have to fear it?

Definition of greed: wanting more than you have? Hurting other people? Not sharing?

The word for greed in greek means a want to have more. Coveteousness.

1 Timothy 6:6-10, Paul is teaching young Timothy and warns him-but godliness with contentment is great gain:

⁶ Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. ⁷ After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. ⁸ So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

⁹ But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

Timothy, flee from this. Godliness with contentment is great gain. If you have food and clothes, that's all you need. Many people who want more harm themselves. A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. You will miss life is what really about.

Godliness with contentment is great gain. The biggest tragedy in this passage is that the man didn't seem to be greedy, he only wanted what was fair. Jesus is offers a relationship with Almighty God. How could you think about that in His presence?

Some people come to church for God to bless them financially. This guy was thinking Jesus could help me to get the money I deserve.

At your time when you struggle with finances, did you look at Jesus and your relationship. God loves us and forgives all of your sins. Jesus paid for your sins. Who cares about that problem?

How often do you think about “stuff?” Do our thoughts and time reflect time thinking about our stuff.

Jesus teaches a very simple story. In verse 16-21. “The ground of a certain rich man (print)

A man thinks about how he could store his stuff. He could retire and enjoy all of his stuff. God says your life will be demanded of you this night.

The American dream-get stuff. Invest stuff. Enjoy stuff.

You don’t want to do that. Build bigger barns. “What shall I do-ongoing process of thought.” I know it’s safe. He is reasoning with himself.

You have insurance to avoid losing your stuff.

Our thoughts go away from God. Jesus is concerned about our thoughts.

“This very night your life will be demanded (a loan and the loan officer demands his money back). He uses this financial term. Have you ever thought about your life as a loan?

Who gave you that life? Who can take that away from you? It’s only a loan. He can demand it back at any time.

MY LIFE?

We want to be found as a faithful steward. This whole passage is about a mentality of God-pleasing and God-focus. He is having to work all of his life to pay off his boat, his cabin. You can have so much fun with time and relationships. You have time to serve Him and exercise your gifts!

1. I don’t have enough.
2. I’m content.
3. I’ve got too much.

That makes no sense.

This is how anyone is who is not RICH TOWARD GOD.

Your money is used to give to others. Are you rich toward God. Could you say you are rich toward God.

The people who make more money, but give a smaller percentage to God.

“If I give 10%, give \$15,000.” Those who have less say “I’d give if I have that much.”

Do you want to give God your stuff?

When I first met Lisa. I was broke and I wanted to spend all of my money on her. I want to show how much I love her. I am finding I want to give. I've found this relationship with God. Don't care about yourself. Put His kingdom above yours.

Be rich toward God because you love Him!

What can I do for God because I love Him so much?

My faith in God is so enriched when I give! When we learn to give, we see God's provision and blessing.