

GREED

I. Greed change our _____.

"... I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord." ~ 1 Kings 21:20

II. Greed changes our _____.

*"⁸Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. ⁹Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God."
~ Proverbs 30:8-9*

III. Greed leaves us _____.

*³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
~ Eph. 1:3*

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading kept in heaven for you. ~ 1 Peter 1:3-4

Suggested Questions for Small Groups

1. What did you like to collect as a kid? Now? What collection where (are) you most proud of?
2. In response to the man's plea, Jesus tells a parable. What is the man's problem? His solution? Why is he a fool?
3. In your own words, what is at the center of this parable?
4. In what ways are you like the man in this parable?
5. Advertising is dedicated to making us think verse 15 is wrong. What lifestyle differences result from believing Jesus versus the advertisements?
6. What does it look like to put as much effort in your relationship with Christ as you do your family, work, or pleasure?

Next Sunday, March 21, 2010: **Great Parables of Jesus**
Martin Scales speaking: Part 5- "The Parable of the Talents"

GREAT PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

parable 1'parəbəl | noun

a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels.

ORIGIN Middle English : from Old French *parabole*, from an ecclesiastical Latin sense 'discourse, allegory' of Latin *parabola* 'comparison,' from Greek *parabolē*.

MARCH 14TH - THE PARABLE OF
THE RICH FOOL

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²²"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

~ **Matthew 6:19-24**



The Rich Fool



Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?”

¹⁵And 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.” ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

someone in the crowd

This passage occurs in a long discourse between Jesus and his disciples, the Pharisees, the Lawyers, and the great crowds that were surrounding him (Luke 9-13). Luke offers us deeper insight and clarity into some of Jesus’ direct teachings. Matthew offers similar insights into Jesus’ teaching yet more concise through his presentation of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5 to 7).

tell my brother to divide the inheritance

It is clear in this passage that Jesus is being viewed as a Rabbi. It was a distinct role of the Rabbi as the spiritual leader and connector to God to provide wise counsel on difficult situations amongst the people. Rabbis were well respected in the community and it was expected that people would adhere to the judgement given by the Rabbi. Jesus seems to want people to move beyond the simple understanding of him as a Rabbi. Jesus is Rabbinical, but at the same time he goes well beyond the role of a Rabbi and is so much more.

I

One of the distinctions in this parable is the use of the word “I”. It occurs six times in three verses (17-19). All of the verbs in this section of the passage are written in the first person singular. The farmer is so focused on himself that it has blinded his heart from seeing or helping anyone but himself. This is the grave danger that we are all confronted with as fallen humans. Sin causes us to turn into ourselves and then we get trapped by the various vices of life.

lays up treasure for himself is not rich towards God.

This is the connection point between this parable and Matthew’s passage in the Sermon on the Mount (Luke 6:19-21). We are all confronted with various idols in our lives, various treasures. Paul reveals Jesus as our treasure (Eph. 1) and Peter our great inheritance (1 Peter 1)

Greed Quotes Throughout History

In Greed, all nature is insufficient - Seneca

O what blindness does great prosperity cast upon our minds! - Seneca

He who is greedy is always in want - Horace

Poverty wants much; but avarice, everything -- Publilus Syrus

We are all born brave, trusting, and greedy, and most of us remain greedy - McLaughlin

