



Luke 12:13-21 New Revised Standard Version

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

Notes _____



In the 1987 film Wall Street, one of the lead characters makes the following statement: “Greed, for a lack of a better word, is good.” This particular character portrays the kind of life which longs for more, bigger, and better, and will do just about

anything to satisfy his cravings.

Unfortunately, we do not need a Hollywood film to remind us of the greed which drives so many people in our world. It is nothing new to recent history. In fact, it is as old as humanity. From the earliest parts of Scripture, we discover individuals acting in ways which reflect a desire for more. However, more is never enough. There is always something else “out there” to be pursued.

Jesus knew that it was a struggle, even for those desiring to be his followers. Time and again, he told parables of the Kingdom of God which centered upon the theme of money and what one does with what he or she has. In today’s sermon text, Jesus responded to a man’s demand for his brother to give him what he had “rightly inherited.” Rather than bringing a solution to the man’s situation, he told a story to help those gathered discover the dangers in having the wrong kind of desires.

In this story known as “The Parable of the Rich Fool,” Jesus shared of a man who had a successful harvest. It was so much so that the man did not have enough space to store his grain, so he found it necessary to build bigger barns. Rather than acknowledging God as the source of his blessings or sharing some of what he had with others, he hoarded it all for himself. He thought to himself how he might preserve what he had and also create a nice future for himself.

Rather than commending the man’s success, the voice of the Lord interrupted the man’s planning and called him a fool for his attitude and behavior. The man was fulfilling what Jesus spoke of in Luke 9 concerning “gaining the whole world and forfeiting his soul.” Greed is one of the “seven deadly sins” and has done much to destroy people over the years. We must keep in mind:

1. Greed can end up even in the heart of the Christian.
2. Our desire for “one more” never works.
3. Greed is a shallow and short-lived quality of living.

Prayer Pebble: Lord, search me and remove any expression of greed that may live within me.