

# Stewardship of Money

S.R. Luke 16:10 - 15

7 – 2 – 2017

## Introduction

- A. Theme for July – September *Stewardship of Money*
- B. Did Jesus ever talk about money?
  - 1. Jesus talked much about money. Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions. (Howard L. Dayton, Jr., Leadership, Vol. 2, no. 2)
  - 2. Was it because he had a lot of it or because he knew a lot about the risks?
  - 3. Pharisees were lovers of money (Luke 16:14) “Scoffed at Jesus”
- C. When you hear “stewardship” think using what belongs to someone else.
  - 1. Who owns everything? “all mine” (over 70 times in Scripture) [Ex. 19:5]
  - 2. How much of your money is yours? (1 Peter 4:10 – 11)
- D. Are you an idol worshiper? (Co. 3:5; 2 Tim. 3:2)

## I. A Fool and His Money (Luke 12: 13 – 15)

- A. Where are you in this picture?
  - 1. Luke 12:13 – 15
- B. This man and his request were to be pitied.
- C. What is Your “life?”
- D. Jesus never condemned wealth and from His humble circumstance never envied it
- E. Do we find our identity and value wrapped up in possessions and status.

## II. Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16 – 21)

- A. Context: Jesus speaks to a crowd who just heard him reprove a man regarding a family money squabble. “Beware of covetousness.”
- B. Several blunders in his thinking.
  - 1. First, he assumed that he was the **owner** of his wealth.
    - a. “My crops, my goods, my barns.”
    - b. What arrogance .
  - 2. Secondly: **No thankfulness or gratitude**

- a. Acts 14:17 “he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”
  - b. Luke 8:14; 1 Timothy 6:9 - 10
3. Third: **Wrong thinking** regarding what to do with blessings. (12:17)
    - a. He should have consulted God because the world and all its fullness are His (Psalm 50:12) ““For the world is Mine, and all it contains.”
    - b. Nor did he think about the empty barns of poor and struggling people to whom he could have provided deliverance. “Not rich toward God.”
    - c. Stewards are conduits of God’s blessings, but not if we think only about our own pleasures and success.
  4. Fourth mistake was thinking what he could put in a barn was **all he needed**.
    - a. Looking over his abundance he said, “I’ve got it made.”
    - b. “Eat, drink, be merry.”
    - c. “life does not consist in abundance of possessions”
    - d. “It takes uncommon blindness to think that there is any security in things.”
    - e. An even greater dullness is exhibited in thinking that spirit beings made in the image of an Eternal being could be satisfied with matter.
    - f. We were made for the “living God”
      - (i) Psalm 42:2 “my soul thirsts for the living God”
  5. Finally, our “successful” farmer forgot about **time and death**.
    - a. He was thinking “many years”, but God said not even one more day.
    - b. His wealth went one way and he went another.
      - (i) (Eccl. 2:18 – 19) “Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity.”
  6. “The evidence of our mortality and life’s uncertainty is not just compelling, it is overwhelming.” (Earnhart)
  7. The only thing that will survive death is a secure relationship with God.
  8. We should pour out all of our lives and treasure toward Him.
    - a. We are conduits by which He disperses blessings, both physical and spiritual.

### III. Conclusion

- A. Will God say of you or me, “You fool! This very night your soul is required of you, and now who will own what you have prepared?”
- B. Mark 8:36 “What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?”