

Spending Too Much Time Acquiring Stuff

CONNECT

If someone gave you a million dollars to spend on whatever you wanted or give to whomever you wished, what would you do with the money? The only stipulation is that you have to spend it or give it away; you can't save or invest it. Share how you would use the money.

DISCUSS

Have someone read Luke 12:13–21. As you listen, are there any words or phrases that especially strike you? What questions come to your mind about what it says? Is there anything that is confusing? Encouraging?

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." (Luke 12:13–21 NRSV)

1. How would you explain the principle that "one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions?" If real life isn't about our possessions, what do you think it is about?
2. What economic situation would make you feel like you had "more than enough?" How would you define "enough?" If you had more than enough, what would you do with the excess? Why?
3. Think of a time when you were eager to get something you thought would make you happy or a goal you worked hard to achieve in order to improve your life; but when you got what you wanted you were disappointed because it didn't live up to your expectations.
4. Have you ever been inspired by someone else's generosity, either toward you or toward someone else? What did they do? How did it inspire or affect you?
5. What are some ways we as a church could become more "rich toward God?" What are some ways we as individuals could become more "rich toward God?"

PRAY and PERSONALIZE IT

1. If you could change one aspect of your relationship with money and possessions, what would it be? What, if anything, is hindering you from making that change?
2. If you could become more generous in one way, what would that look like?
3. In light of our discussion and Christian's sermon, what step(s) do you want to take this week to move from greed to generosity?
4. How can we pray for you?