

Creekside Community Church
Fearless: Conquering Our Fears about Money (Luke 12:13-34)
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Conquering Our Fears about Money

The Connection between Greed and Fear

"Someone in the crowd said to Him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But He said to him, 'Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?' Then He said to them, 'Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.'" And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:12-21)

Three Questions to Ask Yourself When You're Tempted to Worry about Money

a. What do I really want out of life?

"And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. (Luke 12:22-23)

b. Who loves me more than God does?

"Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! And which of you by worrying can add a {single} hour to his life's span? If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more {will He clothe you? You men of little faith! And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:24-32)

c. How will I wish I had used my money when I stand before God?

"Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:33-34)

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. How large a role do fears about money shape your priorities and decisions?

Going Deeper

3. Please read Luke 12:13-34. What do you notice about the man who interrupted Jesus' conversation with His disciples? About the way Jesus responds to his request?
4. What's the point Jesus wants His disciples to get from the story of the rich farmer? Why does God call this man a fool? How is the farmer like many people today?
5. "Greed is not wanting too much – its wanting too little." How do verses 22-23 illustrate this? What do you think most people want out of life? How does greed get in their way? If Jesus is warning against greed, why does He talk to His disciples about worry? What's the connection?
6. What do you learn about God from verses 24-32? If you believed that God is as Jesus describes Him, how might your attitude toward money and possessions change?
7. In what ways is money simply a tool? According to vs. 33-34, how should we use money? Why? How might looking at money from the perspective of eternity change the ways we spend it?

Application

What is one thing you learned from this week's passages that you will apply to your life?