

Sermon Title: “The Good Life”
August 9, 2020 (original date 12/20/18)
Luke 12:13-21

SCRIPTURE

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.

SERMON POINTS

What does it mean to live the “Good-Life”? What exactly is the “Good-Life?” How do we know the “Good-Life” when we see it? Some define the good-life as materially flourishing and/or achieving happiness through physical pleasure. The pleasure-seeking view of the good-life rewards our base physical nature, thrives on recognition of our social status and fails to recognize God as the true source of happiness. The materialistic view of the good-life is fun and pleasurable yet fleeting and unsustainable for our eternal souls.

While Jesus was preaching a man’s, anxiety moved him to interrupt Jesus to discuss a dispute he was having with his brother over his family’s inheritance.

Jesus redirects the man’s attention from his selfish concern through the use of the parable in the text. Jesus likened the rich man in the parable to the brother withholding the inheritance. Jesus revealed the rich fool and the brother withholding the inheritance shared fundamental confusions caused by their materialistic view of life.

Both men were confused about:

1. **The Substance of Life** – We need to understand that life does not consist of the abundance of things. Its nice to have things, but we should wear them like a loose garment because they are here today and gone tomorrow. We must not give in to the “gospel of more” but rather embrace that gospel in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
2. **The Subject of Life** - His disposition and assessment of his success was dominated by the personal pronouns, “I” and “my” and he spoke of himself in the first person. His success convinced him that he was the subject of life. But God the subject of life, the great I AM.
3. **The Source of Life** - He was convinced that he was the source of the abundant harvest of crop. Some people think because of what they have accomplished they are the source of that accomplishment. He failed to recognize and honor God, who is the source of all life..

Discussion Questions:

1. Explain materialism and how we know when we're being materialistic.
2. Jesus didn't offer to resolve the inheritance dispute. How did what Jesus said help resolve the dispute between the brothers?
3. In what ways does financial anxiety influence the man interrupting Jesus? How do you deal with financial anxiety?
4. The rich-fool planted a crop resulting in a successful harvest. Explain why building a stockpile was problematic.
5. How has living through the pandemic caused you to rethink the "Good-Life"?