

Message: ***"Where Your Heart Is"***

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21
(11-23-25 Pastor Tony Hao)

In this passage, what our Lord Jesus saw coming out of this inquiring man was "greed." It is for this reason He begins to teach about the parable of the rich man. It is clear, there's no problem with a person having possessions or even being wealthy. Our Lord was more concerned with the man's heart. The key point of this parable was the warning: *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions"* (12:15).

Here we learn three important lessons: **LESSON #1: Be possessed by God, not by possessions.** What we cannot do to save ourselves, God has done for us. We are to live lives guided, directed, in other words, possessed by Christ. **LESSON #2: Fight off greed by thanking God for life's resources.** The best way to fight off greed is to keep our focus on things above and giving thanks for what God has already given. **LESSON #3: Make a life by what you give, not by what you get.** When we try to hang on to everything, we lose the joy of abundance. The only way to release the grip of materialism is to learn to give.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. Note the number of times the rich man in the parable uses personal pronouns like "I" and "my" in his internal monologue (12:17-19). What does this self-centered language suggest about his character?
2. Why did God call the man a *"fool"*? What essential thing was missing from his careful planning? What does this rhetorical question *"Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"* highlight about material wealth and death?
3. How can you practically treat your money and possessions as a steward of God's gifts, rather than an owner? What are specific ways you can be "rich toward God" with your time, talents, and resources this week?
4. Does this parable change your perspective on saving for the future or planning for retirement? What would a God-honoring approach look like?