**BUILDING BIGGER BARNS**

**LUKE 12:13-21**

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” 14 But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” 16 And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ 18 And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear 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, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

**An well-known doctor successfully attended a sick child.**

A few days later, the grateful mother called on the physician.

After expressing her realization of the fact that his services had been of a sort that could not be fully paid for, she continued:
*"But I hope you will accept as a token from me this purse which I myself have embroidered."*

The DOCTOR replied very coldly to the effect that the fees of the physician must be paid in money, not merely in gratitude, and he added:

*"Presents maintain friendship: they do not maintain a family."*

*"What is your fee?"* the WOMAN inquired.

To which the DOCTOR answered: *"Two hundred dollars.”*

**So in response to the Doctor...**

The woman opened the purse, and pulled out $500.

She put back three,

Handed two to the now tongue-tied doctor

Then took the pursue and walked away.

**Guess that’s what you get – for being a GREEDY Doctor!**

**In Luke 12 – Jesus finds himself in an unusual situation...**

He has been speaking to a crowd of thousands on the danger of a HYPOCRITICAL FALSE RELIGION.

 He is telling them...

If you want to follow me – Then don’t be like the Pharisees:

 Don’t say you love God,

Then live like you love everything else besides God.

 Then enters this guy in v.13

He wants Jesus to get involved in his fight with his brother over his father’s inheritance.

He wanted to Jesus to help him get his money.

Jesus refuses to arbitrate the situation.

 **Instead – He offers him a parable on the issue.**

 The point Jesus is making is this:

**God’s economy is not measured by dollars being spent, but by souls being saved.**

 *The Parable of the Rich fool presents us with couple or realities...*

**JESUS DIDN’T COME FOR YOU TO HAVE YOUR BEST LIFE NOW**

 The exchange with this young man is clear....

Jesus wants him to understand life is not about what you have.

He gives him a warning in v.15

*15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”*

 Then Jesus immediately tells the story of a **Rich Farmer**...

 He is blessed with a plentiful crop

 But instead of sharing the excess of his crop.

He wants to build bigger barns to house the extra crops.

 But then – We find out his MOTIVATION in v.19....

*19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” ’*

 The Farmer just wanted to soak up the good life.

 He wanted to enjoy the finer pleasures of life.

 But because of his motives –

 The farmer is left with nothing – **Not even his soul.**

 **Today – It is extremely people to fall into this trap**

Our wealth presents us with a myriad of choices that allow us to pursue our own interests.

Such choices can easily keep us from using our resources in ways that honor God.

 Don’t misunderstand me....

 Jesus is NOT condemning the possession of wealth.

 It is NOT a sin to have a lot of money.

 It is a sin to use it in way doesn’t honor God.

 How do you use what God has given you?

 Do you seek to pile up treasure for yourself?

Is generous compassion a habit of yours?

Or does compassion take a back seat to your personal desires?

The truth is – We have become convinced Jesus died to gives us the good life...

 That was the problem Jesus was addressing here.

The Pharisees were proclaiming a hypocritical false religion.

They said they loved God – but their lives proved they loved everything but God.

That was same the problem Jesus is addressing in this parable.

 Hypocrisy & Greed are explicitly linked to each other

They both claim to love God - but practically demonstrated they love everything else but God.

We don’t typically hear the old slogan *“Eat, Drink, and Be Merry”* much anymore.

 But I’m sure you’ve heard its modern day equivalent:

*“You only go around once in the life, so grab for all the gusto you can get.”*

We tend to hoard our possessions because practically – We are convinced that is all that we have.

 I’m afraid – Even the modern church has bought into it...

So much of the problems in the church revolve around what we want.

 We want the church to entertain us/ Not Disciple us

 We want the church to validate us/ Not Correct us

 We want the church to be all about us

**But where in the scripture does it say the church is all about us?**

 One of things that frustrates me about the church...

 The generation gap in every church.

The Older folks don’t respect younger folks – because they don’t like & act like them.

The younger folks don’t respect older folks because of the criticism they hear from older folks.

Much of the reason is because we age segregate everything in the church.

The Old Folks have their stuff

The Young folks have their stuff

And nobody learns to respect our differences.

We do just like our left-wing/right-wing media does.

We vilify those who disagree with us.

 **Friend – Jesus didn’t come for you to have your best life now...**

Jesus didn’t shed his own blood -

so you could live HIGH ON THE HOG.

Jesus didn’t suffer and die for you -

so you could HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO

*Jesus came for a much higher reason...*

**JESUS CAME FOR YOU TO GIVE YOUR BEST TO HIM**

 This parable gets to the heart of what the Farmer did...

 **He failed to recognize God as the source of what He had.**

 God isn’t mentioned in this text.

 But its implied – God gave the abundant crop.

 Farmers understand this best....

 Certainly – you do what you can to yield a productive crop

 You plow the field

 You plant the crops in the ground

You fertilize the crops to grow

You remove weeds that restrict growth.

But at the end of the day – The growth of crops is beyond your control.

 Only God is in control of that

 It is only God that controls the sun you need

 It is only God that controls the rain you need

 The Farmer failed to give God the credit He deserved

Instead – He wanted to squander what God had given him to satisfy his own desires.

 God created us for ONE PURPOSE...

 For us to give him the glory He alone deserves.

 David said...

**Psalm 24:1 *—*** *1 The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,*

See – God makes it clear everything belong to him

 David also said...

**Psalm 50:10–12 *—*** *10 For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. 12 “If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.*

**God instituted for His people to give their first & best to him...**

**Exodus 13**

People are instructed to consecrate their first-born children to the Lord.

 **Exodus 23**

People are instructed to give their first-fruits of crops to the Lord.

 **Numbers 18**

People are instructed to give the first-born of their animals to the Lord.

 Why did God instruct them to do so?

Because – he wanted them to remind themselves of the idea behind what James says...

**James 1:17 *—*** *17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

But James also continues with another idea in v.18

**James 1:18 *—*** *18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

He is saying for those of us who have been saved by Jesus...

 We have become living first-fruits of His creation.

 Paul picks up on this in Romans 12...

**Romans 12:*1 —*** *1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

He is saying our lives have now become – One huge first-fruits sacrifice to Jesus.

 Friend – You and I are saved only by the blood of Jesus

 God gave his first – and best – just for you.

 We are now called to give our very best for him.

 Remember the story of Cain & Abel

 They were the sons of Adam and Eve

 Cain was the first-born – He work the ground

 Abel was the second-born – He was a shepherd.

 Both of them made sacrifices to the Lord

 But one of them was an acceptable sacrifice.

 The other was rejected.

 Look at Genesis 4...

**Genesis 4:1–5 *—*** *1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.” 2 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. 3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.*

Why was it that God accepted Abel’s and not Cains?

Abel’s offering was from the first-born of his herd of sheep.

Cain’s offering…(Notice how the describes it):

*3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground*

**Cain used leftover grain to give the Lord.**

Abel gave the first and best

Cain gave the leftovers

Cain and Abel’s story reminds us of something…

 **God isn’t pleased with your sloppy seconds**

I’m afraid for many of us - that's what we offer to God.

We offer our sloppy seconds.

When the Lord calls us to serve his CHURCH

We don't give our first & best –

We offer up our sloppy seconds.

 When the Lord calls us to give to his work

We don't give our first & best

We offer up our sloppy seconds.

 **Friend – God is not please with your sloppy seconds.**

He is NOT pleased with you letting him play 2nd fiddle behind someone else.

He is NOT pleased with you only giving/serving the Lord when it's convenient.

I've said this before – I will probably say it again…

**Serving Jesus when its only convenient is not a life that is COMMITTED TO CHRIST – it is a life that is COUNTER TO CHRIST.**

 *Jesus came for you to give your best to him...*

**Friend – God’s economy is NOT measured by dollars being spent – but by souls being saved.**

How are you using your wealth & possessions to honor Jesus and further his mission?

 Anyone familiar with the TV Show “**HOARDERS**?”

It’s a show where people literally bury themselves alive with junk in their homes.

Counselors try to intervene – sometimes successful – others times not.

It is almost sickening to watch a bury themselves in all that stuff.

Sometimes – I wonder if that’s how God looks at the America Church?

We have hoarded our wealth & possessions.

We bury ourselves in them by using them for our own selfish desires.

But God calls you and me to what we will in ways that honor him.

*15 “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”*