



The Way of Contentment

“Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

Luke 12:15 (NLT)

1. The Context of Jesus’ Warning

Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.”

Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

Luke 12:13-15 (NLT)

- Greed deceives and convinces me that if I just have more _____ then I’ll be _____.

2. The Picture of Greed

Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’”

Luke 12:16-20 (NLT)

How was this rich man foolish?

- He thought only of _____.

“And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)

- He thought only of his present _____.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17 (NIV)

- He didn’t think at all about the _____ of this life.

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

James 4:13-15 (NIV)

3. The Solution to Our Problem

“Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

Luke 12:21 (NLT)

- Having a rich relationship with God begins by knowing you are his _____.

But you are God’s chosen treasure —priests who are kings, a spiritual “nation” set apart as God’s devoted ones. He called you out of darkness to experience his marvelous light, and now he claims you as his very own.

1 Peter 2:9 (TPT)

- Having a rich relationship with God is continued through the practice of _____ and _____.

...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV)

Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

1. What is your relationship with greed? How has it changed over the course of your life?
2. What does practicing contentment look like in your life? How could you grow in contentment, and what does generosity mean to you?
3. What could be an action step for you in the coming weeks to grow in generosity and contentment?

Recommended Resources

- *If Only: Finding Contentment in the Face of Lack and Longing*, by Jennie Pollock
- *Love Your Life, Not Theirs*, by Rachel Cruze
- *Fields of Gold*, by Andy Stanley
- *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving*, by Randy Alcorn and Brian Smith
- *Redeeming Money: How God Reveals and Reorients Our Hearts*, by Paul David Tripp

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