

### WARM-UP

- What is one thing you cannot live without? Why?
- Tell us about a recent purchase that either exceeded or fell short of your expectations. What happened?
- Are you the type of person who is thrifty and likes to save a lot? Why or why not?

**WORD** <sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup>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." **LUKE 12:13-15**

(Read also **LUKE 12:16-21**.)

Wealth and possessions are challenging topics to discuss. Throughout history, we see the effects of discontentment and the ungodly desire for more, which are rooted in greed and self-centeredness. Families and relationships are torn apart, our morality is sacrificed, and priorities and devotions are misplaced. Something similar happened to a man who approached Jesus while He was teaching crowds in Jerusalem. This man appealed to Jesus' authority and influence to speak into a delicate matter within his family. Jesus proceeded to tell him and the crowd the parable of the rich fool. Today, let's look at how God challenges us to think beyond our wealth and possessions.

# 1 | Life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.

*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."* **LUKE 12:15**

In the parable of Jesus, the rich fool was only concerned about gaining wealth for himself, forgetting that God is the one who gives us the ability to produce wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18). He was so focused on personal gain, unaware that his life would end that very night, and he would be unable to enjoy his wealth. Jesus warned the crowds that this man is like those who only think of themselves and are *not rich toward God* (Luke 12:21). There is nothing wrong with being rich or having wealth. In fact, this is how we can be a blessing to others (2 Corinthians 9:11). But when we only concern ourselves with wealth instead of the things of God, we are missing out on the fullness of life. According to John 10:10, where can we find abundant life?

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## 2 | We are to have an eternal perspective, not just long-term.

*“So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”* **LUKE 12:21**

What’s the difference between something eternal and long-term? A long-term object or thought has an eventual end. When the rich fool awed at the abundance of his possessions, he proudly declared how he would live in comfort for many years. While there is nothing completely wrong with that, this is not the totality of life. More than the physical and external things of this world, we are also to think about our inner man, our souls, and the eternal. According to Matthew 6:33, how can we enrich our souls? What are some practical things you have done or regularly do to enrich your soul?

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### APPLICATION

- Why is it important to recognize that God is the one who gives us the ability to produce wealth? How will this affect how you plan about and use your finances?
- Reflect on Luke 12:22–31 this week. How will the truths in this passage change your perspective of and attitude toward your possessions?
- Are you rich toward God? What does this mean for you and how can you grow in this area starting this week?

## PRAYER

- Thank God for sending Jesus to us, who helps us become rich before God and live a life beyond what the world offers. Pray that you will experience the abundant life He offers every day.
- Ask God to help you understand more and more what it means to be rich toward Him. Pray that as you work and earn, you will have an eternal perspective about life and money.
- Pray that as you grow in having the right perspective and understanding in terms of your finances, God will use you to bless others and lead others to Him.

## NOTES

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