



APPNOTES

Date: November 12-16, 2018

Series: For NEPA

Luke 12:13-21 Our society places a high value on obtaining “blessings,” like a big house with an in-ground pool, a BMW in the garage, a condo at the beach, and a bulging retirement portfolio. But cultural values stand in stark opposition to God’s values. The rich young farmer in today’s scripture would fit well in our society. He had it all ... scads of everything, so much he had to tear down his storage units to build larger ones. But Jesus did not call the rich man “blessed.” In fact, He said life is not defined by what we have, even if we have a lot. He reminds us continually in His Word that life is defined by feeding the poor, clothing the naked, helping widows and orphans, visiting the sick and prisoners, bearing burdens. Christ blesses us, so we can bless others. How well are you blessing your world?

Luke 12:13-21 “Eat, drink, and be merry” is the war cry of modern society. Plans and hopes seem rather narrow these days: get while the getting is good, have a great time every step of the way, and pad your nest well. Jesus calls us higher, beyond ourselves and our own comfort. What might “higher” look like? Perhaps it’s regular visits to the homeless shelter or mowing your widowed neighbor’s lawn. It could be cooking for a cancer patient, mentoring the sons of a single mom, or supporting outreach ministries in your hometown or around the world. Investing ourselves in others is the life of Christ in us, a life spilled out for the Kingdom of God. Take each of your days higher, beyond the shallow, temporary pleasure of “Eat, drink, and be merry.” You won’t be shortchanged. Someday, you will be welcomed into the presence of Jesus with the greatest party imaginable!

Luke 12:13-21 I’m picturing the scene at my home after my death. A dumpster will stand in the driveway as my children and grandchildren shovel out my life’s accumulation of stuff while commenting to each other, “Why was she saving this?” I know it to be true because I’ve cleaned out after the death of relatives. The buying and amassing? A waste of time, space, and money. Jesus encourages us to travel light in this world. He wants us to pour our resources into God’s work. We can’t take any of our stuff or money with us when we leave here. How much better to show up in eternity where treasure has been stored up because of what we did and what we gave in Jesus’ name and for God’s glory while on earth! Stockpile treasure in eternity with your sacrificial giving here. That treasure won’t rot, spoil, or be tossed in the landfill!

Luke 12:13-21 “You fool!” God said to the rich young farmer. Two chilling words, “You fool!” What a devastating evaluation of a life by our Creator God! How did the rich farmer gain this despicable identity? Selfishness, plain and simple self-absorption. He focused only on himself and his own comfort. If he had readjusted his myopic vision daily on God’s desires, his self-centered world would have taken on an entirely different shade, for God desires a spirit of giving. Giving recklessly and with abandon. Giving until it hurts. Jesus gave, not just until it hurt but until He died, and He gave for us. Do you only have eyes for YOU? Or are you willing to give so others will know the love of God? Jim Elliot, martyred in 1956 for the Gospel of Christ, wrote, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

Luke 12:13-21 Life is momentary. Death comes too soon. So how do we fill our moments in the meantime? Some think we should fulfill our bucket list of wants before we die: tour the Continent, climb Kilimanjaro, sail the Yangtze, checking off each experience on our lists and complimenting ourselves on a full life. The rich farmer did this. He filled his buckets and barns to satisfy Self, and then he died. God’s desire for our lives is radically different. He wants our lives to have eternal impact: acts of service to others, sacrifices made for those less fortunate, finances poured into assistance and support, deeds of love. Our buckets should be emptied of our resources and assets before we slip from earth, leaving a powerful legacy in the world and making us rich with God. Determine to empty your bucket for God. The most obvious place to begin? Right here in NEPA.

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