

2026-05-31 Points

Title: The Danger of Greed and Being Rich Toward God

Sermon Summary: This sermon addresses the challenging topic of greed and what it means to be "rich toward God" rather than merely accumulating earthly possessions. The pastor wrestles with Luke 12, examining how Christians often read Scripture with preconceived notions rather than allowing it to transform their lives. The message emphasizes that while salvation is by grace through faith in Christ, true discipleship requires examining our relationship with possessions and generosity. The sermon challenges believers to move beyond comfortable tithing and consider how God might be calling them to share abundantly with others, recognizing that everything we have comes from God's provision. It confronts the reality that our lives do not consist in the abundance of our possessions, and that we should be prepared for eternity by investing in heavenly treasures rather than earthly ones.

Key Points:

- Christians must read Scripture in context and apply it personally rather than thinking it applies only to others
- We should fear God who has authority over both body and soul, yet also marvel at His intimate care for even the smallest details of our lives
- Openly declaring Christ before others results in Christ acknowledging us before the angels of God
- Greed comes in many forms and we must actively guard against all kinds of it
- A person's life does not consist in the abundance of their possessions
- The rich fool parable illustrates the danger of storing up earthly treasures while not being rich toward God
- Being rich toward God involves more than tithing; it requires asking God what He wants us to do with all our resources
- The church has allowed government programs to replace Christian responsibility for caring for those in need
- Everything we have, including life and breath, comes from God and should be shared generously with others

- We prove we are children of God by how we use what He has given us to bless others

Scripture Reference:

- Luke 12:1-21 (primary focus on verses 13-21, the Parable of the Rich Fool)
- Supporting references to Acts 17 regarding God as provider
- References to Paul's teachings on contentment and working

Stories:

- The Parable of the Rich Fool who built bigger barns to store his abundant harvest, only to have God demand his life that very night
- Personal testimony about learning to tithe from age 10-11, being taught by father and grandfather about paying bills and giving to God first
- Story of Uncle David who received a cancer diagnosis the same week he was scheduled to put down his dog with cancer, demonstrating contentment and surrender to God's will regardless of circumstances
- Childhood memories of farming in Illinois, learning about the miracle of soil and God's provision through the land
- The practice of "faith promise" giving for missions, stretching faith beyond regular tithing