

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #187

(Note: You can read the online Newspaper edition of this post [here](#).)

## Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship

### The Dangers of Greed

Luke 12.13-21

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, I need you to tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me!"

14 Jesus replied, *"Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"* 15 *Then he said to them,*

*"I command you to always be vigilant! Stay on your guard against all kinds of greed; God's kind of life never consists in an abundance of possessions."*

16 And he told them this parable (of the "The Rich Fool").

*"The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'*

*18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"*

*20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'*

*21 "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Speaking to a Crowd of Thousands, Somewhere in Judea
Timeline	October or November (Months 33, 34)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	D. Jesus Minister in Judea and Trains His Disciples
	3. Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship
Title	ii. The Dangers of Greed

COMMENT:

Like hypocrisy, greed is a treacherous attitude for a disciple.

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The man in the crowd wanted to use Jesus to further his own greed. He actually gave Jesus a command: "Tell him to..." The man was thinking the "old" way, which is the common way for people to think before they meet King Jesus.

*"My happiness depends upon obtaining and enjoying the things I want. Therefore I need to obtain as much as possibly can."* This statement expresses what Jesus meant by greed. It is an utterly wrong assumption about the meaning and purpose of our life. It denies reality, a practice which always ends up in futility.

The truth is that we were created for an eternal-love relationship with the Trinity. The meaning and purpose of our life lies solely in our relationship with God. HE has designed us to have all of our needs met through a right relationship with Him, and ultimately, all of our wants, too. Remember--Jesus is the "Good Shepherd," therefore we have everything we need.

When we make loving God the Trinity our highest priority in life, because that God has first loved us perfectly, we begin to acquire the greatest eternal treasure in the universe--intimacy with God himself. The Angels in heaven would gladly pay any price to have a shot at this "treasure" in the way we do, but they cannot. Fulness of love, joy, and peace that know no end, and have no bounds--that is just the tip of the iceberg of the glory of knowing God intimately--the same way the Father, Son, and Spirit experience each other.

Living in the closest possible love-relationship with God is the unspeakably greatest treasure that any of us could ever discover, or imagine. It is wide open to each of us, equally. There is no partiality with God, or his promises. No other "thing" in all of creation can compete in value with knowing God. No way!

Greed attempts to replace the Creator with tiny little pieces of his creation. There are two closely related problems with greed that make it a deadly motivation for all of us. First, no amount of "things"--the objects of our greed--can satisfy our deepest needs and longest, no matter how much it seems like they can when we are still anticipating the joy of obtaining them. This is why our anticipation of enjoying the things we love is more powerful than the actual fulfillment of acquiring them. The emptiness that remains in us then feeds our greed with the anticipation of the joy of acquiring even more of what will never satisfy us. It is a never ending cycle.

The second problem with greed is that it warps our better judgement, causing us to take actions that we know are wrong. "The ends justifies the means" ethic quickly twists the direction of our fragile inner compass, and we find ourselves doing and saying things to satisfy our voracious desire for "more" that we would never consider doing in different circumstances. Greed ravages our better judgement.

Jesus knew the dangers of greed were as pernicious as hypocrisy. Constant vigilance is required, especially in our materialistic age. Like hypocrisy, our sinful nature constantly expresses itself within us in the futility of greed. Jesus lovingly and wisely commanded us to remain vigilant against all forms of greed.

### APPLICATION:

Things can never really satisfy us. God alone is capable of filling us with the infinite fulness that is Himself. And he does!

*What part of God's creation are you in danger of attempting to substitute for God Himself?*

*How do you need to agree with Jesus about this?*