



7 ESSENTIAL TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Highlights from the Book of Luke

Sermon Formation Guide

Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:23

Psalm 49

Colossians 3:5-17

Luke 12:13-20

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Week 4 of 7

“Rich Toward God”

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Church of the Resurrection, Glen Ellyn

Use these questions in your small group, prayer cell, or personal devotion time to go deeper into the Word and a life of Worship and Mission.

Main Bible Passage

Read Luke 12:13-21.

Main Idea

- ✦ Greed creates a life of isolation. Like the rich fool, we are all susceptible to allowing our wealth to isolate us and make us cold towards God and neighbor. Greed doesn't allow us to look beyond ourselves here on this earth or above towards heaven.
- ✦ The generosity of compassion creates holy community. Being “rich towards God” means that, out of love, we offer this world's goods to build up the Church and reach those far from God.

Engage With Others

- ✦ What does my use of money say about me? Where do I see generosity in my life?
- ✦ Am I intentional in using my financial resources to build the Church and reach those far from God?
- ✦ Where is God asking me to be more responsible with my finances so that I can be more generous?
- ✦ What is reasonable to spend on myself, my family? See I Timothy 6:6-11.

Engage With God

- ✦ Ask God to increase your trust in his provision for your and your family's physical needs.
- ✦ Spend some time remembering and thanking the Lord for what he has blessed you with and how he has provided for you in the past.

- ✦ Bring your current needs before the Lord and ask him to give you this day your daily bread.
- ✦ Ask him to show you how you can use what he has given you for the sake of the church and the world.

Engage With Family

✦ For children: Teach them to give to the Church and the poor on a regular basis. Provide them with an account at home with the categories of “spend, save, and share”, helping them learn how to manage money. Regularly sort through toys and clothes with the goal of giving some away.

Engage in Worship and Mission

✦ **Worship:** The Offertory is that part of the liturgy that can easily be overlooked as “halftime”. It is actually a part of our participation in the Eucharist, the Great Thanksgiving. When we receive the financial offerings in the baskets, they are taken up to the deacon who then delivers them to the priest to be offered up to the Lord. The offering of our monies is part of the offering of our whole lives to the Lord in and through the perfect offering of Christ. When you lift up your hearts at the next Eucharist, intentionally release and offer all of your financial resources to the Father through Christ.

✦ **Mission:** Make a financial sacrifice on behalf of someone else who you know is in need. Say no to some of your “creature comfort” spending in the next month in order to do so.

Bible Verse to Remember

“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15b)

Quotes

✦ Jesus said, “I say to you, guard against all greed.” Greed wants to divide, just as love desires to gather. What is the significance of “guard against all greed”, unless it is “fill yourselves with love”?

- Augustine, Sermon 265.9

✦ He who is rich toward God is very blessed and has glorious hope. Who is he? Evidently, one who does not love wealth but rather loves virtue, and to whom few things are sufficient. It is one whose hand is open to the needs of the poor, comforting the sorrows of those in poverty according to his means and the utmost of his power. He gathers in the storehouses that are above and lays up treasures in heaven.

- Cyril of Alexandria, Commentary on Luke, Homily 89



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