

The Wise Investment

Promise: God fills open hands that have let go of earthly treasure

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Eccl 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26; Psa 100; Col 3:1-11; [Luke 12:13-21](#)
(8th Sunday after Pentecost, 7/31/22)

And [Jesus] 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." – v. 15

Lead In – For most of our lives you and I have been living in a land and a time that is one of the most prosperous in all of history. The average citizen in our country has access to goods and services, to travel and leisure, to luxuries and conveniences, and to health care that exceed what had only been possible previously to royalty. And you might think that by the way we live and act that we believed that the one with the most toys in the end wins. But our Lord Jesus says otherwise. And He warns us of the danger associated with this mentality...

I. The Context for Our Lord's Warning

- Two brothers are squabbling over an inheritance...
- Jesus' surprising disclaimer in His response...
- Instead, Jesus offers a stern warning...

II. Why? A Picture Paints a Thousand Words

- Very often planning and hard work pay off...
- Oh the problems and distractions, esp when self cen...
- Temporal rewards are short lived, then gone...

III. The Lord Is Interested In Our Investing Wisely

- It is the Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom!
- True wealth is humbly, undeservedly received by...
- The investment has already been made on our behalf!

Parting Shot – Imagine this parable. The land of a rich man produced plentifully. The rich man fell to his knees and gave thanks to God for seedtime and harvest, for the sun and the rain, and for the rich soil. Far exceeding the capacity of his barns, the rich man knew exactly what he would do. Not everyone had been as fortunate as he, so he quickly invited his friends to take any crops they needed. There was still enough left over that the farmer was able to prepare a feast and invite his neighbors to feast, relax, and make merry. And he could sleep at night knowing that God would always take care him, even in death, for he knew where his true home was...

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Jesus claims in **Mt 25:31-46** that when the Son of Man comes in His glory, He will come to judge the world.

9th Comm: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

10th Comm: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, ... manservant, ... maidservant, ... cattle, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Pr 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

Pr 12:27 Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.

Luke 12:13-21 ESV

The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And 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."

¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.' ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" ²⁰But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Mt 6:19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.

Ec 2:18 I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me

Mt 6:20 Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

2nd Petition: Thy kingdom come.

Lk 12:31-33 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.

Ci 3:1-2 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

2Co 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2Co 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

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Psalm 100

¹Be joyful in the LORD, **all** you lands;*
serve the LORD with gladness
and come before his presence
with a song.

²Know this: The LORD **himself** is God;*
he himself has made us,
and we are his;
we are his people
and the sheep **of** his pasture.

³Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his **courts** with praise;*
give thanks to him
and call **upon** his name.

⁴For the LORD is good;
his mercy is **everlasting**;*
and his faithfulness endures
from **age** to age.

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