

Title: What drives you?

Main Text: Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” And 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.” And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?” And 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. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ But God said to him, Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Intro: What drives you?

So many people don't have a definitive answer when asked about their Purpose in waking up each day.

If I ask you today, what are you waking up for? What would be your answer?

You see we Work/Study so that we can get Money. But what for?

Compare the teachings of Scripture with the answers of the LIFEgroup members; look for conflicts and agreements.

I. The Love of Money (vv. 13-20)

1.a. What real-life issue does this passage open with? (v. 13)

(It begins with a man asking Jesus to settle a dispute over inheritance between him and his brother. He wants Jesus to tell his brother to divide the family property fairly.)

b. Have you ever seen families struggle over money? What was wrong with this man's attitude?

(Yes, financial disagreements can cause deep rifts in families—especially when it comes to inheritance. In this case, the man was more focused on getting his share than on seeking justice or harmony. His attitude showed a heart driven by greed rather than faith or love. He saw Jesus as a means to get what he wanted, not as a teacher of truth.)

2. What is the heart of the parable Jesus told?

(Jesus tells the story of a wealthy man who had an abundant harvest. Instead of sharing or using his wealth wisely, he decided to build bigger barns to store

everything, thinking he could relax and enjoy life for years to come. But God called him a fool, saying his life would end that very night—and all his wealth would be left behind.)

3. Personal Reflection on the Parable

a. Do you think the rich man felt safe and secure? Why? (v. 19)

(Yes, he believed his wealth guaranteed comfort and security. He said to himself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” His confidence was rooted in material abundance, not in God.)

b. How did God respond to the rich man’s mindset? What did his future look like from God’s perspective? (v. 20)

(God called him a fool. Despite all his planning, his life was about to end, and none of his possessions could follow him. His future was empty—he had stored up treasures for himself but was not rich toward God.)

c. Imagine you are that rich man. You’ve worked tirelessly, built your fortune, and now feel secure. Suddenly, God speaks and declares judgment. How do you feel? What thoughts flood your mind?

(Shock. Regret. A deep sense of loss—not of wealth, but of purpose. You might wonder, “Did I live for the right things? Did I miss what truly mattered?” The security you built feels hollow, and the reality of eternity hits hard.)

d. Knowing this parable now, how does it shape the way you want to live moving forward?

(It’s a wake-up call to shift focus—from accumulating wealth to cultivating a life of generosity, faith, and eternal purpose. It challenges us to invest in relationships, serve others, and seek God’s kingdom first. Life is fragile, and meaning isn’t found in possessions but in how we live and love.)

4. Where Do We Find Our Security?

a. What are some things we rely on for a sense of security in life?

(We often place our trust in things like our careers, financial stability, close relationships, social status, or personal achievements. These can give us a sense of control and comfort.)

b. Are these sources of security truly dependable? Why or why not?

(Not entirely. Jobs can be lost, relationships can change, wealth can disappear, and status can fade. These things are temporary and fragile. True security comes from something eternal—something that doesn’t shift with circumstances. That’s why trusting in God offers a deeper, lasting foundation.)

5. What Are We Really Living For?

a. What was the rich man's goal in life? (v. 19)

(He lived for personal comfort and pleasure. He said to himself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." His focus was entirely on himself and his possessions.)

b. Let's pause and reflect: What are we truly living for?

Here are four common life paths people take:

1. Living to survive:

Many people work hard just to make ends meet. They never stop to ask what their deeper purpose is. Life becomes a routine, and they drift without direction.

2. Living for self:

Some chase wealth, status, or fame for their own satisfaction. Their lives revolve around personal gain, but this often leaves them feeling empty.

3. Living for others (but without God):

There are those who dedicate their lives to helping others—caring for the sick, feeding the poor, or supporting communities. These efforts are noble, but without pointing people to God, they fall short of offering lasting peace and joy.

4. Living for God and others:

This is the life of true purpose. It means loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength—and loving others as yourself. It's a life of service, faith, and eternal impact.

II. The Right Reason for Riches (vv. 15-21)

1. Understanding Wealth and Its Purpose

a. Is it wrong to be wealthy?

(No, being rich in itself isn't wrong. The issue lies in why and how wealth is accumulated. In Jesus' parable, the rich man wasn't condemned for having wealth, but for being self-centered and believing that possessions were the ultimate goal of life (see v. 19). He lived only for himself, ignoring others and God.)

(1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.)

Let's look at verses 17-19 and list every "I," "me," and "my" to see where his focus was:

- "What shall I do?"

- “I have no place to store my crops.”
- “This is what I’ll do.”
- “I will tear down my barns.”
- “I will store my grain and my goods.”
- “I will say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

Clearly, his thoughts revolved entirely around himself.

b. So how should we view possessions?

(Wealth should be seen as a tool—not a destination. It’s meant to be used wisely, shared generously, and stewarded with a heart that honors God. Possessions are temporary, but how we use them can have eternal impact.)

(1 Timothy 6:17-19 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.)

2. Key Teachings from Jesus

a. What principles did Jesus emphasize in verses 15 and 21?

- Verse 15: “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”
→ Jesus warns us not to define our worth or purpose by material things.
- Verse 21: “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”
→ True wealth is found in our relationship with God, not in what we own.

b. What does it mean to be “rich toward God”?

It means living with a heart that seeks God above all. It’s about investing in eternal things—faith, love, generosity, and service. Being rich toward God involves using our time, talents, and resources to honor Him and bless others.

3. What Does It Mean to Live for God?

Living for God is a life of purpose, love, and impact. It involves:

- Loving God fully—with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
(Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.)
- Loving others deeply—as you love yourself.

(Mark 12:31 The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.")

- Meeting real needs—physical, emotional, and spiritual.
- Helping others know God personally—so they can experience true peace, joy, and love.

(Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.)

(Matthew 25:40 And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.)

It's not just about doing good—it's about pointing people to the source of all goodness: God Himself.

Personal Reflection

1. Where does most of my time and energy go?

Am I primarily focused on building wealth, gaining recognition, or climbing the ladder of success for my own benefit?

(Matthew 6:19-20 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy

2. What fills my thoughts most often?

Is my heart centered on God—seeking His will and ways to honor Him—or am I more consumed by my own concerns, desires, and daily struggles?

(Colossians 3:2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.)

Conclusion

In today's society, success is often defined by wealth, status, and material gain. The pursuit of possessions has, for many, overshadowed the pursuit of God. But Scripture reminds us that true richness is not found in what we own, but in how we live before God. May we, as followers of Christ in a material-driven world, be known not for our abundance of things—but for our abundance of faith, love, and generosity. Let us strive to be "rich toward God," so that when our lives are measured, we are not found wanting, but faithful.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(These Lessons are designed in the LIFEGroup Setup and are made to be Interactive)

(Notes in Parentheses are my Personal Answers and Verses. You can use them or ignore them. God Bless, Coach! - Pastor Josh)