

## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 13

Sermon Road Map

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Luke 12:13-21

August 4, 2019

### Seek the riches you can take with you.

- Wills & Inheritances: things can get pretty ugly
  - ♦ Dealing with the stuff the deceased left behind
- A man asked Jesus to intervene with his brother over his inheritance
  - ♦ God the Father didn't give Jesus that role
  - ♦ But as the Christ he teaches - to save us from *all greed* (many forms)
    - demand for what is *fair*
    - the successful farmer's *good stewardship* for his satisfaction
- *Greed* - avarice: extreme greed for wealth or gain; insatiable
  - ♦ Focus on stuff you can't take with you. Only use in this life
  - ♦ Corruption of God's gifts of *pain* and *pleasure*
    - *Pain* - signals *not good*; *Pleasure* - signals *good* or *beneficial*
    - Sin avoids pain at all cost and seeks pleasure at all cost
    - Sin makes life all about pleasure and minimizing pain.
      - Pleasure seeking is made a god - life devoted to my pleasure
        - ♦ We know this. It's the *life* of our sinful nature.
      - Short sighted & foolish. After death the rich man had **NOTHING**

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- ❖ Greed - lives for a false god - stuff that makes life pleasant - for ease
  - *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.* Col. 3:5
  - Our sinful nature lives for self-satisfaction = idolatry (worships/devotion)
    - ♦ The worship of self leaves souls impoverished with the Living God.
  - Bucket List - (2007 movie) - *My to do list before I kick the bucket*
    - ♦ Is this a must do - if not I haven't lived - I'll die with regret?
    - ♦ *or* if God wills, I'd like experience these wonders?
    - ♦ If I can't be content without it - it's a god, impoverishing me with God.
  - Greed: looking to stuff and a life of ease to be my source of satisfaction.
    - ♦ **Ask!** What's my source of satisfaction after death? **It's all gone!**
  - Fun trivia: this Thursday, August 8, is *National Sneak Some Zucchini onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day*
    - ♦ The giving may seem generous, but it's self-servicing.
    - ♦ A reminder how abundance can be a burden
    - ♦ Possessions, when made our gods, become demanding - a burden

What truth did this successful farmer miss that made him a fool?

**It's not how wealthy you are when you die.**

**It's how wealthy you are after you die.**

The first kind you can't take with you. You leave it to your heirs.

The second is with you for eternity. The man was bankrupt. In Christ, we're rich.

- ❖ What are these riches we will take with us?
  - The Word of God that endures forever. It's living and active.
  - The Holy Spirit who dwells in us. Our love & bond with the Triune God.
  - The mature character the Spirit developed in us - restored in God's image
    - ♦ *...suffering produces patient endurance, and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope.* Rom. 5:3,4 EHV
    - ♦ *God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a **harvest of righteousness and peace** for those who have been trained by it.* Hebrews 12:10-11
  - *Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.* Romans 8:17 Not just a place, but our new nature
  - *...if we endure, we will also reign with him.* 2 Timothy 2:12
  - These riches are in us and around us - making us rich for all eternity.
- ❖ See how they enrich and bring satisfaction even now.
  - Those who don't serve the god of greed avoid worry, demands for more
    - ♦ In Christ we're liberated from complaining, *I can't get no satisfaction...*
  - Those who live in Christ - seek riches that will not be taken away
    - ♦ have a life of peace - hope - faith's confidence - things that never break
    - ♦ The riches of the fruit of the Spirit: *love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* Gal. 5:22-23

It's easy for us sinners to be drawn into all kinds of greed - the running after things that you can't take with you. That is foolish on so many levels, but especially when Jesus offers and invites you to

### Seek the riches you can take with you.

That's real life - eternal life - that we savor now, looking forward to diving into it head first at death. Live rich toward God.