

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

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