

Luke 12:13–21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” ’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Big Idea: Ensure your financial planning includes eternity.

My Notes

Greed is dangerous! No financial goal or plan is complete unless it includes God. He wants us to use the resources he has given us to demonstrate that we treasure him, and he invites us to lay up treasures for ourselves in heaven. You cannot find life in money or the things money can buy. *Real life* is found only in knowing God through Jesus Christ. Seeking riches in this world and not being rich toward God makes us fools since we ignore eternity. Therefore, **ensure your financial planning includes eternity.**

Small Group Study Questions

As you reflect on the message from this week, was there anything you heard for the first time? Was there something said that challenged you or confused you?

Getting to Know You

1. If you could ask God and he agreed to tell you one thing about the future, what would it be?

Digging Deeper

Our “Big Idea” this week instructs us to **ensure our financial planning includes eternity**. It is dangerous to perceive your wealth only as a means of personal comfort or enjoyment in this life because greed leads to destruction. Read the following Bible passages prayerfully and carefully as you answer the questions below.

Psalm 49

2. Verses 5–9 and 16–20 show that wealth and riches provide people no advantage before God. Why is this so according to these verses?

Proverbs 11:4, 24, 28

3. How would you describe the contrast between a greedy life and a generous life from these verses?
4. If someone told you they just did not feel like they had enough room in their finances to consider God and eternity, how would you answer?

Psalm 112

5. Verse 1 says that the blessed person is the one who “fears the LORD.” How does this promise of blessing impact your desires and motivations as you plan your financial future?

6. Verse 3 says that “wealth and riches” are in the house of the one who fears the LORD. What does the righteous person do with their wealth according to verses 5 and 9?
7. The “blessed” and “righteous” person is not immune from trials and opposition in this life. However, what do verses 6–8 show you about the heart of that person when trouble comes? How does this compare to the response of the wicked person in verse 10?

One of our passages this week in our VBC Daily 3 devotionals (valleybible.org/vbcdaily3) is Psalm 37:16–20. Take a few moments to answer our three questions: 1) What does this passage say about God? 2) What does it say about us? 3) What should we do about it?

Live It Out

Whether you possess a lot or a little, the Bible is clear that the only wise way to live is to **ensure your financial planning includes eternity.**

8. In his message on Sunday, Pastor Tim Vahlstrom directed us to reflect on the blessings that God has already given to us. What is at least one material provision you can thank God for right now?
9. Pastor Tim also challenged us to include God in our financial plans for the future. As you consider your part in our *Lasting Impact* campaign (valleybible.org/lastingimpact), pray for God’s guidance. Take some time right now to pray, “Father, everything I have I received from you, and you provided these blessings at this time for a reason. Please show me how you want me use the wealth you put in my hands and what you desire from me during this campaign.”

Prayer Requests

One of the most significant ways we grow spiritually together is to pray for one another each week. Use this section to write down the requests of those in your group so you can remember to pray for them throughout the week. Remember: *what is shared in your group should stay in your group.*
