

Project Solomon Sunday
Surplus Giving – Luke 12:13-21
(4/18/10 AM)

1. My Possessions Do Not Define Me (13-15)

Our Culture Believes that They Do

As Jesus was teaching the multitude spiritual truths, He was interrupted by a bold request (13). Jesus will not become his personal arbitrator in a family dispute. Jesus knew what was in his heart, so he used this as an opportunity to teach the people.

• **He warned them of the _____ of greed**

(15) And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness...”

The word “covetousness” is a compound word which literally means “a desire to have more.”

Ephesians 5:3, “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints.” Colossians 3:5, “...covetousness, which is idolatry.”

This is focusing your desire on gaining more things and never being satisfied with what you get.

Solomon learned this firsthand.

Ecclesiastes 5:10, “He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.”

The more you gain the more you want. The opposite of covetousness is contentment. 1 Timothy 6:6-7, “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”

We can’t take it with us, but we can send it on ahead.

Matthew 6:19-21, “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 destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Antidote for Greed is _____

• **He explained to them the _____ of greed**

(15) “for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

The word Luke used for “life” refers to all that makes life worth living. This verse literally says “your life is not your abundance of things.” The important things in life, the essential things in life are not things. One day a lawyer asked Jesus which commandment was the greatest.

Matthew 22:37-40, “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

How many people do you know who have no time for God because of their focus on getting more things? How many people do you know who love things and use people?

God May not Take My Things from Me but He Will Surely

Take _____ from Them

2. My Possessions Are a Test for Me (16-21)

How Do I Handle My Surplus?

This is money that is left over after we have provided for the necessities of life.

• **We view _____ as necessities** (18)

We do the same thing, we choose to hoard instead of share.

1 Timothy 6:8, “And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”

Sooner Or Later Most Everything I Own Will End Up In the _____

• **We view _____ as ownership** (19)

We see God’s blessing in our lives primarily for our personal benefit.

His financial decisions were based upon his presumption about the future. Proverbs 27:1, “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.”

The Belief That I Own Anything Is an _____

Every material possession you own will one day be in the possession of someone else.

- **We view _____ as endless (20)**

The opportunity to share out of his surplus was lost forever. We often think that if I gain more I will one day give more. As income increases we see the percentage of giving decreasing. Jesus said that this is a foolish way to live (21). How can I wisely use the resources God has given me and store up treasure in heaven.

(1) Place giving at the _____ of financial planning

This is giving God an invitation to get involved in my finances.

Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

For some of you that will mean beginning to give regularly.

(2) Determine a _____ that may

Increase, but never decrease

Percentage giving keeps me from becoming greedy. What I give is to be determined by what I have received. Proportional giving is biblical. 1 Corinthians 16:2, "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper."

The average giving percentage in the American church today is between 2 to 3%. How does that compare to what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:15?

(3) Consider _____ giving

There are only three things I can do with money; give it, save it, or spend it. An old adage is give, save, and live on the rest. Am I willing to decrease my standard of living to increase my measure of giving?

Am I willing to diminish my temporary earthly treasure to increase my eternal heavenly treasure?

I Need To Give According to My Income Lest God Make My Income According to My _____