

# Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Jan 13, 2019



Pastor Temple 8:15, 9:30, 10:55

## Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday, on Epiphany?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener: Where do you look for wisdom about how to handle finances? or  
What person in your life has greatly influenced how you think about money and how?

## Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Luke 12:13-21. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup> Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” <sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” <sup>16</sup> And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’**

**<sup>18</sup> “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup> And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ <sup>20</sup> “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ <sup>21</sup> “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- In verse 15, Jesus advises us to watch out for pleonexia, covetousness, greed or a wanting for more. How does the phrase which follows (in verse 15b) provide insight to accomplishing this?
- Why or how are people susceptible to scam artists?
- How many times does a form of the word “my” appear in this passage? What does this indicate about the effects of greed on one’s outlook on life?
- How does addressing our mortality help us to keep perspective on the significance of our possessions alongside other values in life (verse 20)?
- What do you think Jesus meant by being “rich toward God” (vs 21)?

### **Other Related Scriptures (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read Deuteronomy 24:17-22. What three types of people are identified in this passage about leaving portions of the crops for them to receive?
- Why do you believe those groups were mentioned in particular?
- Why does the Lord remind them twice in the passage that they used to be slaves?
- How does “remembering where you came from” sometimes keep the virtues of mercy and compassion present in our thinking?
- Is this a natural mindset for most, or do we need the Laws of God and the Word of God to remind us of this sometimes? How so?

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)**

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional scripture above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How can we resist greed become a stronghold over us such that our possessions possess us?
- When faced with an increase in our resources, what are good Christian alternatives to simply wanting to “build a bigger barn?”
- What are some ways that the fruit of the Spirit of generosity or goodness in Galatians 5:22 can be cultivated in our hearts rather than the greed that Jesus warns us about?
- Have you ever tried to budget income and prioritize your charitable giving before? How did it go?

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- In John 13:34 Jesus tells his disciples to love one another and “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” How or where do you see generosity sown in the world today as a sign of the activity of the risen Christ?
  
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.