The Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21

Introduction

“Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.”

Why is greed so dangerous?

Why does the Bible call greed idolatry? Colossians 3:5

I. Greed feeds a self-centered life. Verses 16-18

Greed and selfishness go hand in hand.

The rich man thought that he had done it all.

Jesus didn’t share that same assessment.

Who gave him the land? Who gave him the strength to work, his health, his intelligence, his good fortune?

Apart from God’s blessing, he might have had no crop at all.

“I don’t begrudge what these guys make, but what really bothers me is that they think they deserve it.” Bob Uecker

That same attitude can affect us if we fail to recognize that everything we have comes from God; or if we find ourselves more concerned about things than God or people.

II. Greed gives a false sense of security. Verse 19

This man was planning for his retirement.

But there was no thought about God or his soul.

The Bible doesn’t say don’t plan for the future or don’t save for retirement.

“A good man leaves an inheritance for his children’s children.” Proverbs 13:22

The problem with this man is he didn’t think far enough into the future.

He thought his life was secure and he didn’t need God. The Bible calls him a fool.

• It is foolish to trust in our wealth.
• It is foolish to hoard our wealth.
“What we hoard we lose. What we give we keep.” Randy Alcorn

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”  I Timothy 6:17-19

III. Greed leads to misplaced values. Verses 20-21

Greed caused this man to miss what is most important in life – our relationship with God.

This man was so preoccupied with things, that the only way to get his attention was to say, “You fool. This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?”

There was a major flaw in this man’s thinking.

What have you done to prepare for eternity?

Conclusion:

How do we guard our heart against greed?

Life is more than the sum of our possessions.

Put your hope in God and not in things.

Be generous and willing to share.

Live each day in light of eternity!