

Introduction

A few weeks ago I spoke on prayer. In fact, it was the seventeenth message on prayer since we began in 2010. I believe that prayer is important. The Scriptures command us to be devoted to prayer. In fact there are approximately 500 verses on prayer in the Bible; it is obviously important. Before I start on today's text in Luke, let me ask you a few questions.

- How many believe that the Bible teaches more about money than prayer? Did you know that there are about 2000 verses giving us instruction about money. We have four times as much instruction in the area of our finances than in prayer. Obviously, our understanding and use of money is important to the Lord.
- There are 16 of the 38 parables that revolve around money. Many of them deal with greed or covetousness. One out of four verses in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John speak about our finances. The gospels contain more warnings concerning the misuse of money than any other singular subject. Jesus taught more about money than any other subject. If we look at the New Testament, not just the gospels, one out of every six verses makes some reference to money.

For me personally, I place an emphasis on money, particularly for those in leadership. Why? Because in Luke 16, the Lord tells us that if we are not faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who can entrust the true riches to us? I believe that souls are the true riches. I believe that it is important to be faithful, and to be able to be entrusted with the lives of precious people.

(Luke 16:11) "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?"

Did you know that in Matthew 13, the Lord tells us that the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. Upon finding one of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Jesus gave up everything He had. He sold everything, so that He could purchase you. You and I were not purchased with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ. Why? Because you and I are pearls of great value. You are the true riches that God wants to entrust to faithful men and women. The use of our money is one of the tests of faithfulness that God uses in our lives.

(Matt 13:45-46) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, {46} and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

The passage starts out with someone in the crowd wanting part of the family inheritance. He was obviously the younger brother, as the inheritance went to the older brother. He asks Jesus to arbitrate and tell his brother to share the inheritance. Jesus asks a very good question, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?" Jesus refuses to meddle with strife not belonging to him. He had not been appointed by both parties to act as an arbitrator. Sometimes, I have been asked by a man or wife to tell their spouse to do something or to help resolve a matter. I have used Jesus' principle and have said that I will be glad to help them if both parties agree for me to intervene. When only one person wants you to be involved, a counselor or arbitrator will not make much headway.

Solomon said that a person who meddles with strife not belonging to him is like one who grabs the ear of a dog. He is going to get bit. It is not a wise thing to do. But, I see people getting involved in

matters that do not belong to them a lot. The way that I see it happen most frequently is someone will start complaining about someone else. It could be called slander. It could be called gossip. If the person is not part of the problem or the solution, the offended person should not be saying anything to the person. The wise person will ask the offended person if they have gone to that person and tried to resolve it. Second, the wise person will encourage the offended person to go to that person, and not to speak to other people about the matter. But too often, people like all the juicy details of matters that do not involve them. We need to learn from Jesus.

(Pr 26:17) “Like one who takes a dog by the ears Is he who passes by and meddles with strife not belonging to him.”

Jesus does not get involved in the family feud over money, but He does tell him to be on guard against every form of greed, because our lives do not consist of our possessions. Jesus said that our focus needs to be on the kingdom of God and not on worldly treasures. Then, Jesus gives a parable to illustrate this. He shares about a wealthy man who built bigger barns to store his wealth, but who was not rich towards God. When he felt at ease about his provision, the Lord came to him and said “you fool! This very night your soul is required of you.” Then Jesus addresses a different group of people. This time He addresses those who were worrying about their basic needs. They were worried about their food, drink, and clothing. This was not the same concern as the wealthy man who had all of his needs met. But both the wealthy and poor had one thing in common. They both had their focus on getting material things. Neither group was trusting in the Lord.

I used to think that the passage was speaking to the wealthy. I thought it was speaking to those who put money before God, and were trying to accumulate a lot. The poor people were not building bigger barns to store more possessions. But, in 1995, the Lord put me through a tough season. I was playing on the Nike Tour that year. There was not a lot of money on the Nike Tour. There were one hundred and fifty six golfers in the field every week. The top sixty made the cut and got paid. But making cuts was not enough for a man with eight children living in hotels. I needed to finish in the top ten every week to make expenses. It costs me \$80,000.00 in traveling expenses, and that was staying in LaQuintas not Hiltons. On top of my traveling costs, I had home and non-business expenses. In those days, our grocery bill was over \$1,500.00 a month. Our food, clothing, shelter, and other expenses were quite high for a large family.

In 1995, I was playing good golf. I was making nearly all the cuts, but not finishing high enough to make expenses. Younger players would have been quite happy making all the cuts, but they did not have large families. In fact, no one else on tour had a large family. We were unique. Anyway, my bank account kept going down. By the end of April I sent Karen and the children home and got some private housing at the tournaments to cut down my expenses. I was very concerned about my food, clothing, and shelter, the very things that Jesus addresses in this passage. Finally, the week before Easter, the Lord spoke to me about this passage. He said that my worry about provision was revealing the source of my trust. I had been trusting in our bank account to meet our future needs. I was not trusting in Him, and when my bank account got down to nothing, I no longer had that security. If my trust had been in Him, the bank account balance would not have mattered. My worry was just an indicator God used to reveal my sin. When this hit me the week before Easter, I called Larry Malament, who was one of the pastors at our home church, and told him that I would probably win the next week. I told him that God had taught me the lesson that He wanted me to learn. Since I got it, He was free to supply my need.

The next week was the Tallahassee Open. I played well that week, particularly over the week-end. A pair of closing 67's on a tough course gave me a win by five shots. Once I had repented of my putting my trust in my bank account, and placed my trust in Christ for my provision, God was free to take care of our needs. He blessed us. He supplied all of our needs, and gave me some working capital for the rest of the year.

Show Video Clip of Tallahassee Open

The passage today does not just deal with those who have a lot of wealth; it deals with the desire to gain wealth, and that applies to the poor and the rich. It applies to all of us.

Let's read our text today.

(Luke 12:13-15) "Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." {14} But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?" {15} Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

(Luke 12:16-21) "And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. {17} And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' {18} Then he said, 'This is what I will do: 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 many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry." {20} But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' {21} So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

(Luke 12:22-34) "And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. {23} For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. {24} Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! {25} And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span? {26} If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? {27} Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. {28} But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith! {29} And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. {30} For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. {31} But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. {32} Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. {33} Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. {34} For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

1. Be on guard against all kinds of greed.
2. The greed of the rich man
3. The greed of the poor man

1. Be On Guard Against All Kinds of Greed

Jesus tells the younger brother to be on guard against all forms of greed, and then gives a parable. The word forms is an added word. The Greek literally reads “pas pas pleonexia” or “all all greed.” **The word pleonexia means one desirous of having more**, and is translated as greed in the text today. It is also translated as covetousness in other places.

(Luke 12:15) “Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”

Pleonexia, (Strong’s G4124), advantage, covetousness, greed. From pleonektês (Strong’s G4123), Root: from the combination of G4183 and G2192; one desirous of having more.

Jesus warns the man, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.” Jesus then gives a parable to illustrate this point.

2. The Greed of the Rich Man.

In the parable, God blesses the land of the rich man and it is very productive. He began reasoning to himself about how he can store up all this money that he is making. He decides to build bigger barns to store all his grain and goods. Psalms 67 tells us that God blesses us that all the ends of the earth may know the Lord. This rich man was not concerned about sowing more into the kingdom of God. **The rich man was interested in storing up treasures on earth.**

(Luke 12:16-18) “And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. {17} And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' {18} Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.”

The man further reasoned that he had laid up many goods which would last him many years to come. He felt like he could now take it easy, eat, drink, and be merry. **There is nothing wrong with enjoying the fruit of your labor.** It is a gift of God. In fact, Solomon says it is a bad thing when a man works hard and cannot enjoy the fruit of his labor.

(Luke 12:19) ““And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.””

(Eccl 5:19) “Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also empowered him to eat from them and to receive his reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.”

The problem with the rich man was not that he wanted to enjoy the fruit of his labor. The problem was that he had laid up all his treasures here on earth. Jesus tells the man that God was going to require his soul, and that someone else would own what he had prepared. He concludes, “so is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

(Luke 12:20-21) “But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' {21} So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Solomon addressed this in Proverbs 30. He said, “Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: keep deception and lies far from me, give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion, that I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.” Solomon knew the plight of the man who wanted to build bigger barns to store all his stuff. It got to the point where he was full and denied God, saying, “who is the Lord.” He got to the place where he felt he did not need God. He had enough to be self sufficient. Solomon did not want that in his life. He wanted to live in a place somewhere between the plight of the rich man and the poor man. He did not want to be denying God, and he did not want to be anxious or worried about his food, clothing, and shelter. Solomon wanted his trust to be in the Lord.

(Pr 30:7-9) “Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: {8} Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, {9} That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.”

In Paul’s first letter to Timothy, who was pastoring the church at Ephesus at that time, he gives instructions to the rich. Paul understood what practical steps the rich man in the parable needed to take to be wise and not foolish. **Paul instructed those who are rich in the present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God.** Paul instructed the rich to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, and ready to share, storing up for themselves treasures for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.” **Paul instructed the rich to be rich towards God and store up treasures in heaven.** Paul had read and meditated on Jesus’ parable in Luke 12, and was passing that wisdom on to Timothy and the church at Ephesus.

(1 Tim 6:17-19) “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. {18} Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, {19} storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”

Who are the rich? How do you know if you are wealthy? In Randy Alcorn’s book, *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*, he gives the following understanding of who is rich.

“Statistically, if you have sufficient food, decent clothes, live in a house that keeps the weather out, and own a reasonably reliable means of transportation, you are among the top 15% of the world’s wealthy. If you have any money saved, a hobby that requires some equipment or supplies (fishing, hunting, skiing, astronomy, coin collecting, painting), a variety of clothes in your closet, two cars (in any condition), and live in your own home, you are in the top 5% of the world’s wealthy.”¹

¹Money, Possessions, and Eternity, page 301, Randy Alcorn.

Most of us fall into that category. Most of us have food, clothes, and a decent house. Most of us have a decent car. That puts most of us in the top fifteen percent of the world's wealthy. Paul's instructions to Timothy apply to us. Are we doing good? Are we rich in good works? Are we generous and ready to share? Are we storing up a treasure of a good foundation for the future? That means, are we storing up treasures in heaven? This is what the Lord was addressing in the parable of the wealthy man.

(1 Tim 6:17-19) "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. {18} Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, {19} storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."

The younger brother had a desire to acquire more wealthy. His eyes were on getting more. Jesus called that a form of greed, and that he needed to be on guard against it.

3. The Greed of the Poor Man

Jesus then turned to His disciples and gave them some further instructions. He ties what He is going to say with what he has just told the younger brother. He says, "for this reason I say to you..." The reason He is referring to is that we cannot take our wealth with us. He had told the rich man, "who will own what you have prepared?"

(Luke 12:22) "And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you..."

When John D. Rockefeller died, someone asked his accountant how much he left. His answer was classic. It was not what the person wanted to know, but it was classic. He said, "He left it all." John D. Rockefeller did not take any of his material wealth with him. Like the rich man in the parable, it was the same question, "who will own what you have prepared?" John left his estate to others.

Someone else once stated that they never saw a hearse pulling a U-Haul. We will leave behind everything when we die. Jesus taught that we need to be rich towards God and store up treasures in heaven. We have that opportunity here on earth.

Jesus tells His disciples not to worry about their life, as to what they will eat, or what clothes to put on. He says that life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. These are temporal things. We need to be thinking of eternal things. The rich man was only looking at the temporal things, and he was not storing up treasures in heaven. Jesus is also making a transition in the text from the wealthy to the poor. The rich are not worried about their food and clothing. They are worried about the next stock market crash. They are worried about protecting their assets. It is the poor that do not know where their next meal is coming from. It is the poor that are concerned about making their house payment. It is the poor who are wondering how they are going to pay their utility bill. It is the poor who are trying to decide which bills to pay, as they do not have money to pay all of them.

(Luke 12:22-23) "And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. {23} For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing."

Jesus tells His disciples to consider the ravens, that they neither sow nor reap, and have no storeroom or barn. But, God feeds them. I love what Jesus tells them next. He says, “how much more valuable you are than the birds!” **The next time you or I have an anxiety about our finances, we must remind ourselves that we are more valuable than the birds**, and God takes care of all their needs.

(Luke 12:24) “Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!”

Next, Jesus asks them a question. “Which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life’s span?” Jesus considers that a very little thing. In the medical profession, it is said that 70% of all medical expenses occur in the last four years of a person’s life. We spend a lot of money trying to add a few hours to our life spans. God can easily add or take away from our life span, but it is not an easy thing for you and I to do. God knows the number of days and hours that have been given to us before we are even born. It is an easy or little thing to God, but a difficult thing for us.

(Ps 139:16) “Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.”

(Luke 12:25-26) “And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span? If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters?”

Next, Jesus talks about the lilies of the field. He said that they don’t toil or spin, but they are clothed with more glory than Solomon. Solomon was one of the wealthiest kings to ever live. He says that if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is temporal, how much more will He clothe us. He ends with a word about faith. When we are worried about our food, clothing, and basic needs, we are not living a life of faith. **When you and I have worries, we need to trust God, and build up our faith. We need to remind ourselves of the promises of God about His provision.** We need to recount how God has faithfully met our needs in the past.

(Luke 12:27-28) “Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. {28} But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith!”

I memorized some of God’s promises about provision, so that I could meditate on them, and remind myself of His promises when my faith was being tested. Here are just some of the passages that have helped me in trusting God for His provision. If you are struggling in this area, let me encourage you to memorize, meditate, and grow your faith in this area.

(Matt 6:33) “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

(Phil 4:19-20) “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. {20} Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

(Ps 37:25) “I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread.”

(Pr 3:9-10) “Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; {10} So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.”

(Pr 19:17) “One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.”

(Mal 3:10-11) “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. {11} "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts.”

(Luke 6:38) “Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

(Pr 10:4-5) “Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. {5} He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, But he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully.”

(Pr 21:17) “He who loves pleasure will become a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not become rich.”

Some of the verses on God’s provision are related to our priorities. Some of the verses on God’s provision for my life related to our work habits. We need to work hard. We need to become as skilled as we can at our work. We need to work when it is time to work, and not be lazy.

Some of the verses on God’s provision pertain to our spending habits. If I have a rich appetite and spend a lot on recreation and pleasures, I will be a poor person. We must have good financial discipline. Most of us need a budget to help us in this area. God may be supplying our needs, but because of our poor stewardship, it appears that He has not met our needs. In actuality, He has met our needs, but not our extravagant lifestyle.

Some of the verses on God’s provision pertain to our giving to the Lord, and giving to the poor. Many people are robbing God of tithes and offerings. They lack God’s blessings on them, and His protection of them because they will not tithe. God says to test Him in this area. Some of the verses have to do with priorities in our lives. When we seek first His kingdom, He promises to meet all of our needs.

Some of the verses on God’s provision have to do with reflecting on God’s faithfulness. We need to reflect on how God has faithfully met my needs in the past. Writing out your testimonies is a valuable thing to do. You can share them with others, and reflect on them during times of testing. God’s provision in our lives is not a simple thing. There are many aspects and promises that relate to our finances. We cannot have good work habits, but rob God of His tithes, and expect His blessing. We cannot tithe, but be lazy and have poor work habits. We have to obey all the different Scriptures that pertain to God’s provision and our stewardship of what He gives us. We need to build up our faith. We do not want the Lord reproving us for being men of little faith.

Jesus continues by saying to us not to seek what we will eat and what we will drink, and do not keep worrying. He is not saying that we do not need to work. He is not saying to ignore the balance of Scripture. For example, Paul writes to the Thessalonians and tells them that if a man refuses to work, don't let him eat. He shares how he worked hard day and night so that he would not be a burden to them. God expects us to work for what we eat and drink. But, He does not want us living for food and drink. He does not want our work life to consume us. He does not want us to seek first the things that are temporal.

(Luke 12:29-30) “And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. {30} For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things.”

God wants you and I to seek first His kingdom. Notice what He says in the next verse, “but seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.” We must seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to us. He tells them to sell their possessions and give to charity. He says to make money belts that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. Jesus is telling them the same thing that God told the rich man in the parable. He should have been storing up treasures in heaven. He could not take his earthly treasures with him when he died. He should have been storing up treasures in heaven. He should have been making kingdom investments instead of earthly investments. He should have been seeking first the kingdom of God.

(Luke 12:31-33) “But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. {32} Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. {33} Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.”

The main idea of this passage is that we must seek first the kingdom of God. The younger brother was concerned about acquiring things on earth. The rich man in the parable was concerned about accumulating things on earth. The poor man who was worried about food and clothing was concerned about things on earth. God wants you and I to seek first the kingdom of God. He wants us to make eternal investments.

Jesus concludes by saying that where our treasure is, there will our heart be also. **To know where a man's heart is, look at two places: his check book and his day timer.** First, look at his check book or credit card statement. Where is the man investing? Is he giving to God? Is he giving to charity? Is he giving to the poor? Is he sowing into missions? Is he sowing generously into the local church?

(Luke 12:34) “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The second place to look is at a person's daytimer. Where is the man investing his time? Is he spending his time investing in the kingdom of God, or is he spending his time pursuing worldly things? Is he spending all his time planting more crops and building barns to store the surplus? God is after our hearts. He wants the treasure of our heart to be His kingdom. He wants the treasure of our hearts to be the King of the Kingdom. He wants the treasure of our hearts to be the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Conclusion

Where is your heart this morning? Where is your treasure this morning? Have you been building bigger barns or investing where the money belt will not wear out, where thieves cannot break in, and moths cannot destroy? Have you been sowing generously into God's work? Are you seeking first His kingdom?

Have you been worried about your food and clothing? Have you been wondering and worrying how to pay your bills? I have been there. Let me encourage you to reflect on some of God's wonderful promises about His provision for your life? Let me encourage you to sow generously into God's work.

Some have said to me, "Bill, don't emphasize money! These are poor people that live in the Estancia Valley. These are poor people that live in the East Mountains." My heart is to reverse the financial curse on the Estancia Valley? My heart is to teach people to work hard, spend carefully, and give generously unto the Lord. If people will not tithe, they will not see all of God's blessings in their lives. He tells us to tithe and to test Him in this matter. He will pour out a window of blessing and He will rebuke the devourer.

If you have been worried about your finances, let me encourage you to do what I did in 1995. I repented of trusting in my own resources. When I repented and put my trust in Him to provide, He poured out a blessing. I am not promising that you will win a golf tournament next week. What I can promise you is that God is faithful. Your heavenly Father is faithful, and He will supply all your needs. You do not need someone to pray with you about that. It is a matter between you and God. But, if you want someone to bear that burden with you, we will gladly pray with you. Just come forward and we will pray with you.

Others have different needs this morning. If you need healing or some other provision from God, we want to pray with you. God's power and provision is available this morning for whatever need you have.

For some, you have been looking for a spiritual home. You have been looking for a place to sow your time and talents. You have been looking for a place to sow into the kingdom of God. If God has been speaking to you about joining the East Mountain Vineyard, let me encourage you to come to the Orientation meeting after the luncheon today. We will tell you more about our church and our vision. Some of you may have already gone through the Orientation meeting, and know that this is where God wants you to be. This is the family He is putting you in. Let me encourage you to come forward this morning.

Let's pray.

Introduction (Luke 16:11, Matt 13:45-46, Pr 26:17, Luke 12:13-34)**1. Be On Guard Against All Kinds of Greed** (Luke 12:15)

- The word pleonexia means one desirous of having _____.

2. The Greed of the Rich Man. (Luke 12:16-21, Pr 30:7-9)

- The rich man was interested in storing up treasures on _____.
- There is nothing wrong with enjoying the fruit of your _____.
(Luke 12:19, Eccl 5:19)
- Paul instructed those who are rich in the present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of _____, but on _____.
- Paul instructed the rich to be rich towards God and store up treasures in _____. (1 Tim 6:17-19)

3. The Greed of the Poor Man (Luke 12:22-26, Ps 139:16)

- The next time you or I have an anxiety about our finances, we must remind ourselves that we are more valuable than the _____. (Luke 12:24)
- When you and I have worries, we need to _____ God, and build up our faith.
- We need to remind ourselves of the _____ of God about His provision. (Pr 19:17, Pr 10:4-5, 21:17)
- Some of the verses on God's provision are related to our _____. (Matt 6:33)
- Some of the verses on God's provision for our lives are related to our _____ habits. (Pr 10:4-5)
- Some of the verses on God's provision pertain to our _____ habits. (Pr 21:17)
- Some of the verses on God's provision pertain to our _____. (Pr 3:9-10, 19:17, Mal 3:10-11, Luke 6:38)
- Some of the verses on God's provision have to do with reflecting on God's _____. (Ps 37:25, Phil 4:19)
- God wants you and I to seek first His _____. (Luke 12:31, Matt 6:33)
- To know where a man's heart is, look at two places: his _____ and his _____. (Luke 12:34)

Introduction (Luke 16:11, Matt 13:45-46, Pr 26:17, Luke 12:13-34)**1. Be On Guard Against All Kinds of Greed** (Luke 12:15)

- The word pleonexia means one desirous of having _____.

2. The Greed of the Rich Man. (Luke 12:16-21, Pr 30:7-9)

- The rich man was interested in storing up treasures on _____.
- There is nothing wrong with enjoying the fruit of your _____.
(Luke 12:19, Eccl 5:19)
- Paul instructed those who are rich in the present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of _____, but on _____.
- Paul instructed the rich to be rich towards God and store up treasures in _____. (1 Tim 6:17-19)(1 Tim 6:17-19)

3. The Greed of the Poor Man (Luke 12:22-26, Ps 139:16)

- The next time you or I have an anxiety about our finances, we must remind ourselves that we are more valuable than the _____. (Luke 12:24)
- When you and I have worries, we need to _____ God, and build up our faith.
- We need to remind ourselves of the _____ of God about His provision. (Pr 19:17, Pr 10:4-5, 21:17)
- Some of the verses on God's provision are related to our _____. (Matt 6:33)
- Some of the verses on God's provision for our lives are related to our _____ habits. (Pr 10:4-5)
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