

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me -- and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. **What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.**

Luke 12:13-21

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.”

Good morning! It’s been a while since I’ve been in the 10:30 tower. It’s always an honor to be here / to worship together and to make Christ known in our lives and the lives of this community. The Lord is present with us this morning. Often we sing come Lord Jesus Come. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father in His place of authority, reign, and rule. He is with us this morning through His Holy Spirit, which He has left here on earth as His agent of life to lead us into all truth. The Gospel of John chapter 14 reminds us that we are not left as orphans, but that we have the Spirit of the Living God, not only around us, but in us!! That’s GOOD NEWS! From our readings this morning, there is a very simple yet profound message. From the outset we could sum it all up as a warning against greed! But this text is about something much deeper than mere greed. This passage is about desire!

Desire: *verb*

1.1.

strongly wish for or want (something

1. [want](#), wish for, long for, yearn for, [crave](#), hanker after, be desperate for, be bent on, [covet](#), aspire to;

And so our story begins with an interruption from a brother who feels he has been cheated in this life. He has been unfairly treated. “Jesus, tell my brother to split the family inheritance with me!” And Jesus quickly reminds us how **trivial** earthly possessions are compared to the power and majesty found in God. For one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions, He says. Desire.....

Matthew Henry puts it this way:

That if we are not careful we will have a desire of having more, more than God in his providence has allotted us. That in this story of the brother desiring his inheritance// it was not a lawful desire of getting his own, but a sinful desire of getting more than his own.

And so to make a point Jesus tells a parable about a farmer, but not just any farmer. This was a man who was successful, a man of means, a visionary, he had a plan, he had a desire. His desire was to be secure, to be a self made man, dependent on no one.

Can you relate with this character in any way? I certainly can. When I reflect on my life I can recall all the times I said “If only.....” In my teenage years it was “If only I could have a girl friend my life would be complete and I would have meaning and purpose and significance. That would later turn into, “If I could only find a wife and get married, I would be happier more content.” If I only had a million dollars, if I only made a name for myself, if I only lost 20 pounds, if I only got this degree, if I only, if I only.....

If only I could build these big barns and store all my crops in them, I will have some sense of control over my life and be content and fulfilled!! Secure!!

DESIRE!!!

What are you desperate for? What is it that you devote your energy and affections towards?

What are you building in your life? The Rich Man built barns/store-houses. He was a busy man who could produce, and create, and build and his store-houses could be seen from miles around recognized by everyone in town.

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. King Solomon said that. I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

Jesus's Kingdom is spiritual, and not of this world. Christianity is not to get twisted up in the politics of institutions and worldly matters. **36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?** Daily we must choose God's truth over the advice of this world. Why? Because God's truth is rooted and founded in Grace, while worldly dominion/ worldly power is **founded** in the law and the law leads to death, depression, bondage! Grace comes

through Spiritually minded people who desire more of Christ in their midst!

What is it you desire.

The Warning This Morning is This.....

Covetousness, greed, the desire for more is a sin that leaves our souls in ruin. The things of this world, the wealth of this world will never fully comfort or complete us. And yet we so often get tripped up by our culture (and I'm preaching to myself) and we strive for the more that's leaves us empty. We desire the more that never satisfies.

'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves **but are not rich toward God.**"

It's time for us to turn back to God. It's time for us to return to our first love Jesus Christ. It's time to be rich towards God. This building we are in this morning is merely a big barn, a storage house! But it's not here to serve you, to store up out treasures in. This barn was created to store up Joy, peace, generosity, grace, love, friendship, worship, majesty, and power, for us? No! To be given away, to the glory of God. To be rich towards Him. Are we full this morning of God and His majesty and splendor. Perhaps we are full of ourselves. I don't know where you are this morning, but I know that Jesus is calling us to desire Him, to desire His way and not ours. Trust in me once again, says the Lord. Depend on me once again.

Be rich towards God.....