

“Rich Toward God”

Sermon Notes

- **C.S. Lewis had it exactly right: “...we are far too easily pleased.”**

-The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965. p.2.

**The American Dream is on a collision course with
biblical Christianity...*

1. ...because Jesus says that life is not about _____, it's
about _____ (vv.13-21)

2. ...so exchange your _____ for
_____ (vv.22-34)

Next Week: Luke 12:35-48 - “The Son of Man Is Coming At An Hour You Do Not Expect”

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the Week of March 18th-24th

Getting Started

1. Are you familiar with what is often called the “health, wealth and prosperity gospel?” If so, share your understanding with the group. Is this “another gospel” (Galatians 1:6-9)? Why or why not?

Digging Deeper

2. In Matthew 6:24, we read: “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” Do you claim Jesus as your Lord? If so, would you say that the decisions you make with regard to your finances, possessions and lifestyle support this claim?

Open Your Bible to Luke 12:13-34...

3. What does the man in verse 13 want from Jesus? What is his tone? Is he asking Jesus or telling Jesus to do something? How does Jesus respond to him (v.14)?
4. In verse 15, what sort of a challenge are Jesus' words for us today in 21st century America?
5. Take a close look at the parable Jesus tells in verses 16 to 21. What details do you notice? What is the main point of the parable? What does it mean to be “rich toward God”? How does Jeremiah 9:23-24 answer this question?
6. What is Jesus warning his disciples of in verses 22 to 23? What sorts of daily anxieties do you find in your own heart? What is Paul's practical counsel for such worries in Philippians 4:6-7? How does Jesus counsel us in verse 31?
7. In verse 31, Jesus commands us to “seek his kingdom”. In verse 32, Jesus promises us that “it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” What is the kingdom?

How do you know?

8. How does Jesus instruct us in verses 33 and 34? In the Great Commission, Jesus makes it clear that he expects his disciples to “obey all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). What does it mean to obey Luke 12:33-34?

9. Jesus says that it is hard for a rich person to get into heaven (Matthew 19:23). By Jesus' standards, even those who live below the poverty line in our nation qualify as rich. What hope does the average American have of being saved? How does the gospel provide hope for those of us who live in the midst of extraordinary wealth (consider the stories of Job, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, David, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea)?