

# Storing Up for Ourselves?

## Practicing the Way series: Honoring the Image of God in All People

Sunday message from May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

~ Notes & Reflections ~

- **We honor the image of God in ourselves and others by how we live.**
  - ❖ Read [Luke 12.13-21](#). What stands out to you? What impacts you the most? What do you notice about what God values (God's heart) in this passage?
- **In responding to the man, Jesus challenges the issue of greed in the hearts of all the listeners.**
  - ❖ Greed is a human problem, not just an issue for the wealthy.
  - ❖ Read [Luke 12.15](#) again slowly. What is Jesus saying? How do you hear His words?
- **Greed is the intense selfish desire for something—wealth, status, power, position, etc.**
  - ❖ What is meant by the phrase “all kinds of greed”? How might you see those issues creep into your life?
  - ❖ “Guard” is a two-fold command: 1) to stop a current action and 2) continue with a different action.
  - ❖ How might Jesus be challenging you in Luke 12.15 to “guard against greed”? What might God be inviting you to stop? What might He be inviting you to begin?
- **Generosity starves greed.**
  - ❖ How do you see this statement reflected in the passage?
  - ❖ How have you experienced the effect of being generous in your life?
  - ❖ How might the discipline of simplicity (living content and free from the pull of “more”) further guard against greed? What might that look like in your life?
- **Greed is an inhibitor to the development of community.**
  - ❖ Read [Luke 12.16-20](#) again, particularly noticing “I” and “my”. What do you notice about the role of God in the life of the man? The role of community in his life? How would the man “engaging with God” and “journeying together” in community have changed the story?
  - ❖ How have you experienced the role of community combat greed in your life? How might God be inviting you to take a next step in journeying together with community, particularly to develop generosity?
- **Jesus said, “Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”** (Luke 12.15)
  - ❖ Of what, then, does life consist? How does our culture answer this question? How would you answer?
  - ❖ Consider the following passages: [John 14.6](#), [John 17.3](#), [Colossians 3](#) (v.10). What do notice about the life Jesus (and Paul) describe?
- **Blessings from God are for the purpose of life.**
  - ❖ How does generosity bring life to others? How is this honoring the image of God in others?
- **Only through Jesus can we live richly toward God, rooted in the image of God, value what God values.**
  - ❖ Read [Matthew 13.3-8, 22](#). How role do riches and greed play in this parable?
  - ❖ Read [Galatians 5.22-25](#). What does it look like to live out the image of God according to this passage?
  - ❖ Read [Galatians 6.7-10](#). What do you notice? What might God be speaking to you in this passage?
- With an honest look, whose image do you most reflect: the rich man in Luke 12 or Jesus?